

Arab Thought Forum to hold meeting next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) will hold its annual meeting at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Amman on April 25-26 under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

A number of leading intellectuals from 15 Arab countries will take part in the meeting, according to an ATF announcement Saturday, which noted that a seminar, entitled "Arab Thought: A New Vision," will also be held.

The main working paper is to be submitted by former ATF Secretary General Ali Um Leil during the first day's session, according to the announcement.

It said the delegates will review and discuss the ATF's programmes for the next two years as well as financial and other matters.

Crown Prince Hassan, who will address the seminar, is scheduled to hold a private meeting with the ATF board of trustees.



AMMAN MAYOR WELCOMES EMPLOYEES AT NEW CITY HALL: Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi on Saturday welcomes an employee to the new Amman City Hall in Ras Al 'Ain, which opened its doors to the public after moving from the old headquarters last week. The new premises were set up on 23,000 square metres as part of a project for the development of the entire Ras Al 'Ain district (Petra photo)

Visiting Turkish general says Ankara wants stronger ties

AMMAN (Petra) — The visiting deputy chief of staff of the Turkish army, Cevik Bir, Saturday said his country was looking forward to stronger ties with Jordan in both military and other fields.

General Bir, who was speaking at a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, said Ankara appreciates Jordan's stand vis-à-vis various regional issues, particularly the

Middle East peace process.

Gen. Bir, who arrived Friday for a four-day visit to the Kingdom, said the development of Jordanian-Turkish ties is one of the important questions for Turkey in view of the high international credibility that Jordan enjoys.

Dr. Majali and Gen. Bir discussed questions of common interest to Jordan and Turkey and praised the existing bilateral relations.

The prime minister also underlined the important roles that Jordan and Turkey play in the course of ensuring peace, security and stability in the Middle East.

Later, Gen. Bir met with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordan Armed Forces, Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh, with whom he discussed Jordanian-Turkish military cooperation.

JMA asks three members to return JD45,000 in representation fees

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The board of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) has asked three former board members entrusted with the pension fund to return JD45,000 they received for representing the JMA and its pension fund in violation of laws.

The board made the demand after consulting with the association's legal

advisor, Na'im Madani, who said in his ruling that "serving the union is essentially voluntary work, which deserves no remuneration. The amount that the three members of the former board received as bonuses and transport expenses while representing the JMA and its pension fund is in violation of laws."

"The three former board members should return the full sum following the issuance of a formal mem-

orandum from the notary public. Otherwise, they will have to be prosecuted," he added.

According to Mr. Madani, the JMA consulted with him on the matter after Arafat Ashab, a JMA member, submitted a complaint to the current JMA board on Feb. 7, 1998.

In his complaint, Dr. Ashab said: "Three former JMA board members have violated the regulations while in charge of the pension fund by acquiring a

bonus. Their action should be declared illegal and in violation of the law."

"The three [unnamed] JMA members have unlawfully pocketed sums of money... and should be presented before a JMA disciplinary council in accordance with JMA law," he added in his complaint.

According to Dr. Ashab, the three firms in which the doctors had represented the JMA sustained losses estimated at JD800,000.

Medical week to be held in Baghdad in June

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will hold a medical week in Baghdad starting June 1 in support of the Iraqi people, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Health and Medical Care.

During the medical week, which will also include an exhibition, doctors and specialists from Jordan will deliver lectures on the development of the Kingdom's pharmaceutical industry.

According to the announcement, specialists covering all fields of medicine will represent the Ministry of Health, the Royal Medical Services of the Jordan Armed Forces, the University of Jordan, the Jordan University of Science and Technology and the private sector.

The Hashemite Charity Organisation, the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, the Ministry of Information, and the Jordanian press will take part in the activities of the week-long event, which also include visits to hospitals and treatment of patients.

The Amman Chamber of Industry announced that it will cover the expenses of the delegation's participation, the purchase of medical equipment and drugs for the exhibition, and a gift of medicine to the Iraqi people.

Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi, who last Wednesday chaired a meeting to discuss preparations for the event, said the gathering will serve as a show of solidarity with the Iraqi people and further strengthen the ties between the Jordanian and Iraqi peoples.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kurdi left Amman Saturday for Muscat on a four-day visit to discuss strengthening Omani-Jordanian cooperation in medical fields. The minister is expected to sign a protocol on training medical personnel in the two countries.

PSD offers JD50,000 reward for information on Naddeh case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday announced a JD50,000 reward for any person providing information leading to the arrest of the parties involved in the April 8 murder of prominent lawyer Hanna Naddeh, his son Suhail and psychiatrist Awni George Sa'ad.

An advertisement in the local press said any person who has information about the suspects should call the PSD police at telephone number 196, the Amman

police station at 192, the Amman Criminal Investigation Department at 4639149, or any other police station.

The three victims were found dead at Sa'ad's Shmeisani clinic, lying in separate rooms with their hands and legs tied.

The PSD announcement also noted that the police found Suhail Naddeh's Mercedes in the Abu Nuseir district, northwest of Amman.

Earlier, the police found the car belonging to Sa'ad on Wasfi Tal Street. Both cars were believed to have been used by the suspects

to flee the scene of the crime.

His Majesty King Hussein met with PSD Director Nasouh Muhieddin two days after the murder and urged him to speed up the investigations into the murders, which shocked the country.

The police said Naddeh and Sa'ad were both killed by one bullet to the head, while Suhail was shot twice. They added that there were no signs of resistance, but blood smears and fingerprints found at the murder scene were taken for examination by experts.



Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour Saturday meets with two members from the visiting Macedonian delegation (Petra photo)

House speaker meets with visiting Macedonian parliamentary delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour and a visiting Macedonian parliamentary delegation Saturday discussed bilateral relations and means of boosting them, particularly in the parliamentary concerns.

Mr. Srour told the delegation, headed by Sulaiman Rajbi, that Jordan is ready to provide all possible sup-

port to Muslims everywhere to help them meet their aspirations for freedom and self-determination. He noted in this regard Jordan's support for the Muslim people of Kosovo.

The chairman of the House's Arab and International Committee, Abdullah Jazi, also met the visiting Macedonian delegation.

Dr. Jazi was briefed by Mr. Rajbi on the political regime in Macedonia and the social structure of the former Yugoslav republic.

Dr. Jazi noted Jordan's contribution to international peace through participation in U.N. peace-keeping forces, particularly in the Balkan region.

The meeting was also attended by members of the House committee.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Al al Bayt president meets with Omani ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — The president of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bayt Foundation), Nassreddin Assad, Saturday met with Omani Ambassador Harhad Ben Hilal Bin Ali Al Ma'mari, with whom he discussed Jordanian-Omani cultural, intellectual and scientific relations. Dr. Assad briefed Mr. Ma'mari on the academy's objectives and its achievements, in addition to its role in highlighting contemporary Islamic values and building bridges of confidence and understanding between followers of the various Islamic schools.

Badran leaves for meeting in Ottawa

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Ibrahim Badran, left Saturday for Ottawa to take part in a coordination meeting of the Palestinian refugees working group, which begins in the Canadian capital today. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan, the Palestinian National

Authority, Egypt, the United States, and Israel, in addition to donor countries. The meeting is expected to formulate recommendations on easing the suffering of refugees and improving their living conditions.

Cabinet endorses amendment to water prices for ships at Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday endorsed an amendment to the prices of water supplied to ships docking at Aqaba seaport. Under the amendment, a cubic metre of water supplied to ships docking at the wharf will be JD10, while the price of a cubic metre supplied to ships off the dock will be JD16, in addition to a charge of JD2 per hour for the small vessels used to supply the ships.

Anani receives new Philippines ambassador's credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jawad Anani Saturday received the credentials of the newly appointed Philippines Ambassador to Jordan Roberto Dison.

Cabinet receives briefing on country's water situation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday examined the water situation in Jordan following a briefing by Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin.

The Cabinet, meeting at a regular session chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, reviewed steps taken to ensure adequate amounts of water and projects under way in various regions.

Following the meeting, which was held at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Dr. Haddadin said his briefing covered the ministry's achievements from March 1997-March 1998. He noted that the most important achievement was the Kingdom's national water strategy, which was approved by the government.

The strategy, he said, covers the country's water needs until the year 2011 and gives details on ordinary and priority projects, the restructuring of the water sector, and the tariff for water charges that was enacted in October 1997.

Dr. Haddadin also spoke about a conference held last November by financiers for the Petra water project, saying that they expressed readiness

to provide support.

Several important water projects were completed last year, including the construction of the Karameh Dam, which is designed to hold 55 million cubic metres of water, the Zabada water project in Tafleh, and the wastewater treatment projects for Wadi Seer, Fuheis and Mahes. Current projects include the dams to be built at Mujib, Hassa, Waleh and Tannour, the replacement of water networks in Amman, the piping of water to Amman from the Jordan Valley region of Deir Alla and plans included in the government-sponsored social safety package.

Dr. Haddadin noted that work will soon start on a Disi-Amman water piping project and a water treatment plant in the Zarqa River basin, as well as projects to be carried out in Irbid and Aqaba.

Dr. Haddadin stated that the projects in the national water strategy will cost an estimated \$3.5 billion. The minister added that \$500 million, including \$200 from the state's treasury, have already been secured for projects that can be implemented by the year 2002.

what's going on

LECTURES

- * "Leadership and Global Changes" by former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev at the Institute of Diplomacy on Monday, April 20, at 11:00 a.m.
- * "Towards Building a Changing Arab System in a Changing World" (in Arabic) by former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabel Amman on Monday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m.
- * "The EURO — Drowning of a New Leading Currency" (in English) by Hans Pinner at Goethe-Institut, Jabel Amman on Tuesday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m.

FILMS

- * "Le famme de la liberte" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Weibdeh on Monday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- * Two films entitled "Carry On... Abroad" and "Camberwick Green" at the British Council, Jabel Amman on Tuesday, April 21, and Wednesday, April 22, at 6:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. respectively.
- * German film "Alice in den Staetten" (with subtitles in English) at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabel Amman on

Tuesday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Works by Yassin Al Mobammedi at the Orient Gallery, Shmeisani (Tel. 5681303/4), until May 7.
- * Private collection of Jan Kassay entitled "Flowers Series" at the Jordan River Designs Project showroom, Jabel Amman (Tel. 4613081/2), until April 22.
- * Photographic exhibition entitled "A Tour in the Dead Sea" by Jaussen and Savignac at the French Cultural Centre, until April 30.
- * Paintings by Lebanese-American artist Ezel Adnan entitled "Artist's Book of Art and Poetry" at Darul Al Funun, Jabel Weibdeh, until May 21. Also displaying works by Berlin-based Syrian artist Marwan Bashi entitled "A Suite of Heads," and works by contemporary Arab artists.
- * Works by Maurice Haddad at Hammurabi Arts Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5536098), until April 22.
- * Paintings on handmade paper at Noor Al Hussein Foundation, off Wadi Sagra St. (Tel. 5699141/2), until April 25.

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An alternative elections law being readied by the opposition in response to a controversial draft announced by the government last month could be published before the end of the week, opposition leaders said Saturday.

The opposition's proposal will offer a "viable alternative" to the one-person, one-vote system, which both Islamists and leftists have rejected as aimed at minimising their representation in Parliament, said Salem Nahhas, secretary general of the leftist party Hashd.

The coalition of 13 political parties grouped in the Higher Committee for Coordination Among the Opposition Parties (HCCAOP), ranging from the powerful Islamic Action Front (IAF) to the Jordan Communist Party and the pan-Arabists of Al Mustaqbal, however, has not yet reached a final agreement on the electoral system that their proposal will feature.

"We are still discussing three possibilities," Mr. Nahhas told the Jordan Times.

"Some [opposition] figures

would like to go back to the 1989 electoral system, while others are proposing that each voter be allowed to cast three ballots," instead of one, as stipulated by the current law.

The system applied in the 1989 elections, which marked the launching of Jordan's political liberalisation, permitted each voter to cast as many ballots as the number of deputies to be elected to his/her constituency. It was replaced by the one-person, one-vote formula a few days ahead of the 1993 elections by temporary legislation.

According to Mr. Nahhas, a third camp in the opposition "would like to introduce a proportional system, under which each political group, coalition, or tribal group would get a percentage of parliamentary seats equal to the percentage of votes it obtained in the poll."

This last alternative, which Mr. Nahhas said "is the most popular among all opposition groups," would also introduce a "barrier" to parties or groups' representation in Parliament.

"If a party or group does not obtain a minimum percentage of votes, it does not get any seats," he explained.

Mr. Nahhas said the opposition's "alternative" legislation would also tackle the crucial issue of elections' supervision.

"All [elections] laws prepared by the government, including the recent draft, give the Ministry of Interior the authority to supervise the polls, which is highly undemocratic," he said.

He added that the opposition's document will instead suggest the establishment of a "mixed" body comprising "the top [judges] in the country, representatives of political parties and civil society institutions, and government officials to supervise the whole election process, from registration to counting procedures."

The opposition was angered by a draft elections law finalised by the Ministry of Interior at the end of March and currently being reviewed by the Prime Ministry.

"Political parties should have a say in an issue such as the elections law," protested Suleiman Arar, secretary general of the pan-Arabist Al Mustaqbal Party.

"But the government did not consult with anybody, showing once again that it does not intend to open any democratic debate," Mr. Arar, a former interior minister, added.

Deputies have told the Jordan Times that they expected the draft legislation to be submitted to Parliament during an extraordinary summer session.

The government's draft included only minor changes to the previous 1993 law, retaining the one-person, one-vote system, lowering voting age from 19 to 18 years, and maintaining the current ethnic and religious quotas in the 80-member House — nine seats to Christians and three seats to Chechens and Circassians.

The government's draft did not increase the number of deputies and maintained the ban on voting for members of the security and military forces, as well as for members of the judiciary.

However, it replaced the old-fashioned voting cards with magnetic identity cards, a move which the government said will help avoid irregularities and prevent voters from casting their ballots more than once.

Senior officials at the Ministry of Interior have declined to detail or comment on the draft, saying that it was only a very rough document and they expected many changes to be introduced by the Prime Ministry.

Official sources, however, told

the Jordan Times that the draft, as submitted to the Prime Ministry by the Ministry of Interior, included provisions allowing Jordanians residing in foreign countries to cast their ballots through Jordanian embassies abroad.

The opposition dismissed the government's draft as a "bluff." Deputy Khalil Haddadin (Amman 3rd District), who is also secretary general of the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, denied that the draft law presented "any change whatsoever."

"The government is saying that it lowered the voting age, but even that is only a bluff."

According to Article 3 of the government's draft, all Jordanians who have reached the age of 18 by Jan. 1, 2001, are entitled to vote. "But, as the elections are held in November, by the time those 18-year-olds go to the polls, most of them will be 19," Mr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

According to Deputy Mohammad Ouran (Tafleh), who currently holds the six-month chair of the HCCAOP, the opposition's alternative draft law will show that "the opposition has tangible alternatives to offer."

Two men face U.S. court contempt charges in Hamas fund-raising case

NEW YORK (AP) — Two Palestinians have been jailed for refusing to testify before a U.S. grand jury investigating fund-raising in the United States by the Islamist group Hamas. The New York Times reported Saturday.

Abdul Haleem Ashkar, jailed on Feb. 23, was quoted as saying that he refused to answer questions about several Palestinian advocates in the United States and abroad and is on a hunger strike.

One of those advocates is Mousa Mohammad Abu Marzouk, the Hamas political leader jailed in New York during a bitter extradition battle

with Israel then released to Jordan last year.

Two U.S. judges found the men in contempt of court, a means traditionally used to compel testimony. Authorities are investigating a money trail from the United States to Islamist groups linked to attacks against Israel.

A spokesman for Mary Jo White, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, refused to comment Friday, the Times said.

Grand jury proceedings are secret and documents in the case are sealed.

Stanley Cohen, the lawyer for Ismail Elbarasse, also jailed on a contempt charge,

said his client is accused of sharing an American checking account with Abu Marzouk from which a contribution of several hundred thousand dollars was made to Palestinian groups abroad.

Elbarasse is a Palestinian with American citizenship who works as the finance officer for a private Islamic school in Virginia. Mr. Cohen said.

Found in contempt of court on April 6, Elbarasse is held in the Metropolitan Correctional Centre in Manhattan, his lawyer said.

Ashkar is a Palestinian from Alexandria, Virginia, who is

in the United States on a student visa, according to a statement from his lawyers, Simone Monasebian and Michael Kennedy.

Ms. Monasebian said that she and Mr. Kennedy would seek to have him released, but declined further comment to the Times.

Ashkar said in a telephone interview from a prison ward at the Westchester County Medical Center in Valhalla that he had been on a hunger strike since being imprisoned and had lost 11 kilograms.

He said he was being forced through a tube in his neck, and was drinking water.



ISRAELI POLICEMAN AIMS WEAPON AT PALESTINIANS: An Israeli border policeman Saturday brandishes his M-16 rifle at Palestinians as police break up a demonstration in the center of Arab east Jerusalem calling for Israel to release Palestinian prisoners. Palestinians threw stones at the police as clashes broke out when police stopped the march, which they said was illegal, from proceeding. Police fired rubber-coated bullets and arrested many Palestinians (Reuters photo)

Arafat encourages EU role in peace process ahead of Blair visit

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat urged Europe to take an active part in the peace process with Israel Friday just prior to the visit of British Prime Minister Tony Blair to Israel and the Palestinian areas.

"The Palestinian Authority calls on the European Union to play a major role in the peace process in the Middle East," Mr. Arafat said here late Friday at a meeting of his cabinet.

Mr. Blair is to arrive in Israel Sunday and will meet Mr. Arafat Monday as part of increased European efforts to

break the 13-month stalemate in the negotiations.

The Palestinians have placed great emphasis on the visit since Britain currently holds the EU rotating presidency.

"This is a very important visit," Mr. Arafat said, the Wafa Palestinian news agency reported.

"It is a European duty to help make peace between Israel and the Palestinians after Britain succeeded in negotiations in Northern Ireland," Mr. Arafat said.

The Palestinians hope Mr. Blair will apply pressure on Israel to carry out a long-

overdue withdrawal from the West Bank promised in peace accords.

U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross is slated to arrive in the area next Friday in efforts to get both sides to agree to a reported U.S. proposal calling on Israel to pull back from 13 per cent of the West Bank in tandem with Palestinian guarantees to rein in Islamists.

Israel has tried to stop the United States from publishing its plan, insisting that any withdrawal from more than nine per cent of the West Bank would endanger the country's security.

Hamas students strike in Gaza over detentions

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Several hundred students at the Islamic University of Gaza went on strike Saturday to demand that the Palestinian police release nine fellow Hamas students.

The strike was organized by student members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to protest against the detention this week of nine Islamic University student council members who belong to the Islamist group.

Some of the detainees have been released, but others remain in custody, the student protesters said without providing further details.

The students were seized after accusing Palestinian President Yasser Arafat of killing Hamas's chief bomb-maker, Mohieddin Shahrif, on March 29 in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has arrested several Hamas political leaders who publicly accused Mr. Arafat's administration of collaborating with Israel in the murder of Shahrif.

But the PNA said its investigation showed that Shahrif was slain by a rival Hamas military chief.

Iranian press welcomes Tehran mayor's release with caution

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian press gave a reserved welcome Saturday to the release this week of Tehran Mayor Gholam-Hussein Karbaschi following his arrest on corruption charges two weeks ago.

"On leader's initiative, Karbaschi now a free man," read the headline in the conservative English-language Tehran Times.

Karbaschi, who is close to moderate President Mohammad Khatami, was released on Wednesday from the notorious Evin prison north of Tehran where he had been detained since April 4, on the orders of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali

Khamenei. His arrest on charges of "embezzlement and diversion of public funds" triggered a political crisis pitting pro-Khatami moderates against the conservative-led judiciary.

Tehran municipality newspaper Hamshahri and the radical newspaper Salam portrayed the mayor's release as a government victory and a defeat for the powerful conservative faction in the Islamic Republic.

"Karbaschi's detention was a challenge to President Khatami," Mr. Hamshahri said, adding that the head of state "emerged victorious

from this crisis." Salam praised "the manner" in which President Khatami handled the crisis.

"His manner confirms the government's ability to overcome obstacles," the paper said, hailing the Iranian people's "presence and participation" in this government success.

It was the first Iranian newspaper coverage of Karbaschi's release because of a two-day public holiday in the Islamic Republic.

Karbaschi, a reformer known for revitalizing Tehran, must still appear before a court on the charges.

Khatami says Iran has no designs on other nations

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said Saturday in a speech marking national army day that the Islamic Republic wanted to be strong but had no designs on other countries.

"We have a powerful army with a strong morale, but we

are not a supremacist nation," he said during a ceremony at Tehran's Azadi (Freedom) Square.

Iran wanted to become "a model" for other countries, said Mr. Khatami, a relative moderate who took office in August. "We don't have supremacist aims on other

countries but we want to be a strong nation."

After his speech, army, air force and navy units joined the Revolutionary Guards, or Pasdaran, in a parade through the square watched by several hundred people, including former prisoners of war and foreign military attaches

posted in Iran.

Unlike last year, the parade did not march over the national flags of Israel and the United States, the Islamic republic's two sworn enemies. Saturday was not the first time, however, that the army has dispensed with such gestures.

Arab American leader criticises Clinton's remarks on Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hala Maksoud, president of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), criticised U.S. President Bill Clinton's participation in a television special broadcast last week celebrating the 50th anniversary of the state of Israel.

Mr. Clinton's statement reiterated the myths about the founding of Israel and "making a once desert bloom." His comments and the show itself ignored the experience of the Palestinian people during this 50-year period, an ADC press release said.

The 2-hour special featured many leading Hollywood stars and other entertainment figures, including Kevin Costner, Michael Douglas, Winona Ryder, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Steven Spielberg and Steve Wonder.

Mr. Maksoud stated: "We are dismayed that the president would participate in this show and perpetuate the myth that Palestine was a desert. Palestine was not a desert. Palestinians had a rich culture and society. Haifa, Jaffa and Acca were thriving cities."

"But Israel erased the Palestinian presence from the land, destroying 418 Palestinian villages. Israel was built on the wreckage of Palestinian lives. It is unconscionable for President Clinton to celebrate this

history, while ignoring its human cost — the destruction of Palestinian society and 50 years of dispossession, exile and occupation."

"Even within Israel the public discussions of the anniversary have been much more thoughtful and frank in re-examining the Palestinian experience," he added.

"Mr. Clinton's statement was particularly astonishing, coming at a time when the U.S. is trying to act as an honest broker in the peace process. How can the U.S. be an honest broker while the president is participating in the annulling of the history of one of the parties?"

history, while ignoring its human cost — the destruction of Palestinian society and 50 years of dispossession, exile and occupation."

"Even within Israel the public discussions of the anniversary have been much more thoughtful and frank in re-examining the Palestinian experience," he added.

"Mr. Clinton's statement was particularly astonishing, coming at a time when the U.S. is trying to act as an honest broker in the peace process. How can the U.S. be an honest broker while the president is participating in the annulling of the history of one of the parties?"

Britain will not interfere over nurses — Saudi ambassador

RIYADH (AFP) — British Prime Minister Tony Blair will not try to interfere in the case of two British nurses accused in the murder of a colleague in Saudi Arabia, the Saudi ambassador to London said Friday.

"This affair is being treated in accordance with Saudi judicial rules, without interference from anyone," Ghazi Qossabi told the official SPA news agency.

"The British government understands exactly this position and respects the independence and honesty of the Saudi justice system," he added.

Mr. Blair's office said earlier this week he would discuss the case of the two nurses during his visit to the kingdom on Saturday.

Deborah Parry, 40, of Alton, southern England, is awaiting a verdict in her trial which began last May for the murder of Australian colleague Yvonne Gilford at a hospital in Dhahran in December 1996.

Her co-accused fellow nurse Lucille McLauchlan, 32 from Dundee, Scotland, is appealing her sentence of eight years in jail and 500 lashes for complicity in Gilford's murder.

A spokesman for Blair's office said: "The issue of the nurses is bound to come up. It will be raised by the prime minister."

But he dismissed British newspaper reports that plans for the nurses' early release from prison in Dhahran would be announced during Mr. Blair's visit as "pure speculation."

Parry has been spared execution even if found guilty of intentional murder after the victim's brother in Australia agreed to waive the death penalty in return for financial compensation, under the Islamic laws of Saudi Arabia.

After their arrest the two nurses confessed to the crime, but later retracted the confessions, claiming they had been extracted under the threat of sexual and physical mistreatment.

Mr. Qossabi said Mr. Blair's visit would focus on the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process and trade issues.

"The kingdom wants Europe and Britain to play an active role which will help to push the peace process forward," he said.

Somali militia commander says unfair employment led to kidnappings

MOGADISHU (AFP) — A man claiming to be the commander of Somali gunmen holding 10 Red Cross workers hostage has accused agencies in north Mogadishu of discriminating against his militia when hiring guards.

"Our clansmen are not given employment chances and we do not like the way aid is distributed," Mahmoud Ali Ahmad "Tabele" told the Saturday edition of the Xogogal newspaper.

"There are 10 armed wagons protecting the abducted aid workers, but none of them was hired by aid agencies here," Mr. Tabele added.

Somali gunmen have in the past used the employment issue to extort money from aid agencies.

Observers said Mr. Tabele is fronting for militia commander Ahmad Adley, who is holding the hostages in his north Mogadishu compound.

Mr. Tabele is employed as a security officer in the north Mogadishu Islamic court and also serves as a personal bodyguard for top Islamist Sheikh Ali Sheikh Mahmoud.

Mr. Adley is a former business partner of south Mogadishu warlord Osman Hassan Ali "Atto." Three of Atto's armed vehicles were on Friday taken to the compound where the hostages have been held since their abduction Wednesday.

The presence of Atto's battle wagons in Adley's compound have led to speculation here that Atto might be indirectly involved in the kidnapping.

The two men are close, though on opposite sides of the clan divide. Both are Hawiye, but Osman Atto is a member of the Habr Gedir subclan, while Adley is a member of the Abgal subclan dominant in north Mogadishu and a member of its Da'ud sub-clan.

A spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) told AFP that negotiations for the release of the hostages were continuing Saturday. Somali elders are seeking their unconditional release.

Several sources close to the negotiations insisted that the hostage takers had demanded a \$1 million ransom, although ICRC headquarters in Geneva dismissed the ransom demand as a rumour.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

16:10 Cartoon — The Pink Panther
16:20 Cartoon — Pumpkin Patch
16:30 French Programmes
18:00 Skippy
18:30 Drama — The Borderline
19:00 The Journal
19:15 Science Magazine — EsM6
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Life's Most Embarrassing Moments
20:00 Documentary — The People and Places of Africa
20:30 The Ultimate Guide to Motherhood
21:10 Drama — Renegade
22:00 News in English
22:30 Drama — Silent Witness
23:59 Comedy — The Upper Hand
00:30 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:36 Fajr
05:58 (Sunrise) Duha
12:35 Dhuhur
16:12 'Asr
19:11 Maghreb
20:33 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifish Tel. 59207-40
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

different altitudes and winds north-westerly moderate. On Monday and Tuesday, temperatures are expected to drop gradually and clouds building up at different altitudes. It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be westerly to north-westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be fine, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman.....13/26
Aqaba.....20/33
Deserts.....11/30
Jordan Valley.....19/32

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 24, Aqaba 32 Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifish Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Latin Catholic Parish Tel. 461490
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Fine weather conditions will prevail today with clouds appearing at

Al Asema pharmacy.....4637055
Naioukh pharmacy.....4623672
Al Salam pharmacy.....4636730
Yacoub pharmacy.....4644945
Shmeisani pharmacy.....4637660
Najib pharmacy.....847632
IBRD:
Dr. Fawzi Abdul Hajja.....252970
Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Hibal Al Sayyid.....986702
Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

Water Authority.....5680100
J. Electricity Authority.....515615
Electric Power Co.....4636381
RJ Flight Information.....44-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport.....44-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 592199
The Islamic, Abdi.....5661317
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 836813, 858586
Luzmila.....4630195
Khalidi Maternity.....4644281/6
Akilich Maternity.....4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani.....5607071
Shmeisani Hospital.....5669131
University Hospital.....5352444
Al-Muasher Hospital 56672279
Al-Ahli, Abdali.....5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir.....775111/26
Army, Marka.....891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 560224050
Amal Hospital.....5674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital.....(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital.....(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital.....(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital.....(09)990990

Food Control Centre.....4637111
Civil Defence Department.....5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....4630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Refugee Police 192.462111.462777
Fire Brigade.....4617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....4630321
Hotel Complaints.....5605800
Price Complaints.....5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121
Overseas Calls.....010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs.....4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....5661101
Jordan Television.....773111
Radio Jordan.....774111

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital.....(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital.....(02)272725
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital.....(02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44) 53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone (44) 52700

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:35 Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:25 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
10:40 Bombay (RJ)
10:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00 Paris (RJ)
18:45 Brussels, Milan (RJ)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:45 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
10:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
19:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
23:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:45 Beirut (RJ)

07:30 Tel Aviv (RJ)
10:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
11:20 Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)
12:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:30 Rome (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:20 Athens (RJ)
13:20 London (RJ)
14:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
21:00 New Delhi (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:40 Damascus (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:40 Bangkok (RJ)
23:40 Sanaa, Ta'iz (Y)
00:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
04:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights
06:15 Beirut (ME)
07:15 Tel Aviv (LA)
07:30 Paris (AF)
07:35 Damascus, London (BA)
07:50 Frankfurt (LH)
12:00 Al Hudayfah (SV)
14:00 Jeddah (JY)
14:25 Doha (GF)
14:30 Doha (QR)
21:10 Tel Aviv (LA)
22:40 Cairo (MS)
02:15 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)

Royal Wings (RW)
07:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
09:15 Aqaba (RW)
10:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
17:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:55 Tel Aviv (RW)
21:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:50 Aqaba (RW)

Home

Arab Thought Forum to hold meeting next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) will hold its annual meeting at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Amman on April 25-26 under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

A number of leading intellectuals from 15 Arab countries will take part in the meeting, according to an ATF announcement Saturday, which noted that a seminar, entitled "Arab Thought: Vision and International Development," will also be held.

The main working paper to be submitted by the ATF Secretary General, Ali Um Lail, during the first day's session, according to the announcement, will discuss the ATF programmes for the next two years as well as financial and other matters.

Crown Prince Hassan will address the seminar, which is scheduled to hold a general meeting with the ATF board of trustees.

There are 10 armed wagons protecting the abducted aid workers, but none of them was hired by aid agencies here," Mr. Tabele added.

Somali gunmen have in the past used the employment issue to extort money from aid agencies.

Observers said Mr. Tabele is fronting for militia commander Ahmad Adley, who is holding the hostages in his north Mogadishu compound.

Mr. Tabele is employed as a security officer in the north Mogadishu Islamic court and also serves as a personal bodyguard for top Islamist Sheikh Ali Sheikh Mahmoud.

Mr. Adley is a former business partner of south Mogadishu warlord Osman Hassan Ali "Atto." Three of Atto's armed vehicles were on Friday taken to the compound where the hostages have been held since their abduction Wednesday.

The presence of Atto's battle wagons in Adley's compound have led to speculation here that Atto might be indirectly involved in the kidnapping.

The two men are close, though on opposite sides of the clan divide. Both are Hawiye, but Osman Atto is a member of the Habr Gedir subclan, while Adley is a member of the Abgal subclan dominant in north Mogadishu and a member of its Da'ud sub-clan.

A spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) told AFP that negotiations for the release of the hostages were continuing Saturday. Somali elders are seeking their unconditional release.

Several sources close to the negotiations insisted that the hostage takers had demanded a \$1 million ransom, although ICRC headquarters in Geneva dismissed the ransom demand as a rumour.

UOIAN (Pera) — The general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Zuhair Badran, left Saturday for Ottawa to take part in a coordination meeting of the Palestinian refugees working group, which begins in the capital today. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan, the Palestinian National

UOIAN (Pera) — The general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Zuhair Badran, left Saturday for Ottawa to take part in a coordination meeting of the Palestinian refugees working group, which begins in the capital today. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan, the Palestinian National

UOIAN (Pera) — The general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Zuhair Badran, left Saturday for Ottawa to take part in a coordination meeting of the Palestinian refugees working group, which begins in the capital today. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan, the Palestinian National

UOIAN (Pera) — The general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Zuhair Badran, left Saturday for Ottawa to take part in a coordination meeting of the Palestinian refugees working group, which begins in the capital today. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan, the Palestinian National

UOIAN (Pera) — The general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Zuhair Badran, left Saturday for Ottawa to take part in a coordination meeting of the Palestinian refugees working group, which begins in the capital today. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan, the Palestinian National

UOIAN (Pera) — The general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Zuhair Badran, left Saturday for Ottawa to take part in a coordination meeting of the Palestinian refugees working group, which begins in the capital today. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan, the Palestinian National

UOIAN (Pera) — The general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Zuhair Badran, left Saturday for Ottawa to take part in a coordination meeting of the Palestinian refugees working group, which begins in the capital today. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan, the Palestinian National

UOIAN (Pera) — The general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Zuhair Badran, left Saturday for Ottawa to take part in a coordination meeting of the Palestinian refugees working group, which begins in the capital today. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan, the Palestinian National

UOIAN (Pera) — The general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Zuhair Badran, left Saturday for Ottawa to take part in a coordination meeting of the Palestinian refugees working group, which begins in the capital today. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan, the Palestinian National

UOIAN (Pera) — The general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Zuhair Badran, left Saturday for Ottawa to take part in a coordination meeting of the Palestinian refugees working group, which begins in the capital today. Taking part in the meetings will be representatives of Jordan

Taiwan hopes to establish military information with China

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan hopes to exchange information on military exercises with China to reduce hostility and avoid misunderstandings, the United Daily News Saturday quoted Premier Vincent Siew as saying.

"If military exercise information could be transparent, that would reduce hostility and maintain stability across the strait and in the Asia-Pacific region," Mr. Siew was quoted as saying.

Mr. Siew was responding to opposition Democratic Progressive Party lawmaker Chang Chun-Hsiung's proposal Friday that a mechanism to exchange such information be set up as a way to build mutual trust.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had renounced the use of force to resolve cross-strait problems in 1991, but mainland China had not given up the possibility of using military force to retake the island.

Beijing launched six rounds of war games and missile tests near Taiwan between 1995 and 1996 in the run-up to the first Taiwan presidential election to dampen what it said was mounting independence sentiment here.

Taiwan and China are technically still at war following the end of a civil war in 1949, in which Communist forces drove nationalist troops to the island. Both claim to be the legal governments of all China.

Mr. Siew's call for better military communication came after Taiwan announced Friday it was sending a top-level delegation to Beijing next Wednesday for the first cross-strait meeting since ties plunged to a low three years ago.

Chan Chih-Hung, deputy secretary-general of the Strait Exchange Foundation (SEF), is to lead the eight-member mission to Beijing for three days.

SEF is a semi-governmental body set up to deal with China. Its mainland counterpart is the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS).

Mr. Chan, who is also research and planning director of the cabinet-level mainland affairs council which charts Taiwan's mainland policy, is to discuss with ARATS officials preparations for an unprecedented trip to China by SEF chairman Ku Chen-Fu at the invitation of ARATS.

Mr. Ku and his ARATS counterpart Wang Daoban held historic talks in Singapore five years ago and both sides pledged to continue lower-level negotiations.

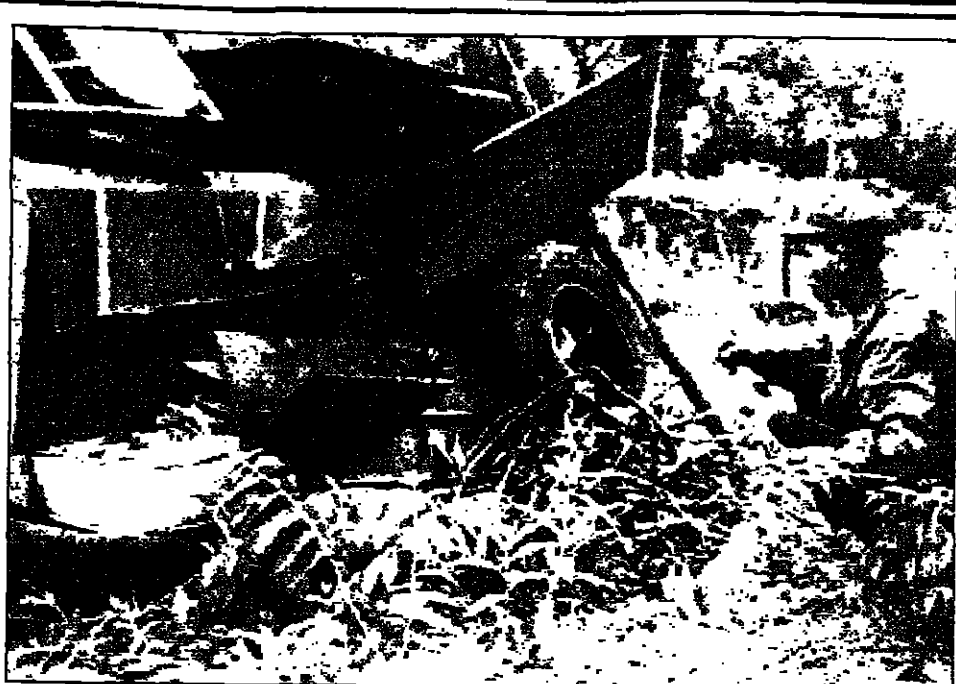
But Beijing suspended all bilateral talks between the two bodies since mid-1995 after Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui made a landmark visit to the United States.

A thawing of frozen ties between the two rivals came in February when China sent a letter to Taipei welcoming the resumption of talks and exchanges of visits by negotiators.

Grenade kills 4 in Peru

LIMA (AFP) — Four peasants including an eight-year-old boy died Friday when a grenade blew up in an agricultural area in central Peru, police said.

Three others — a woman, her husband and a 40-year-old man — were seriously injured in the blast, they said.



A Khmer Rouge fighter sets fire to the coffin of a man said to be his former leader Pol Pot, moments before a cremation ceremony, near Srabua, one kilometre from the Thai border. Pol Pot, one of the century's most reviled dictators, was cremated by his comrades in a low-key ceremony in a small village in northern Cambodia (Reuters photo)

Two Rwandan priests given death sentences for genocide

KIGALI (AFP) — Two Rwandan Roman Catholic priests have been sentenced to death for their part in Rwanda's 1994 genocide, the Rwandan Information Agency (ARI) reported Saturday.

In the first such penalty against church officials, the country's own war crimes tribunal found priests Jean-Francois-Emanuel Kayiranga and Emmanuel Nkuruye guilty of "genocide and complicity to genocide" Thursday.

The men were accused of participating in the slaughter of more than 8,000 people in their church in Nyange, in Rwanda's eastern prefecture of Kibuye.

According to an official in Kibuye's public prosecutor's office the two priests encouraged people in the parish to take refuge in their church where they were subsequently murdered by Hutu militia and soldiers.

The priests were then said to have brought in an earthmover to cave the building in over the bodies.

ARI said the driver of the earthmover has been sentenced to life in prison, while the owner of the machine was acquitted.

A survivor of the massacre, Charles Kagenza, 36, told the Rwandan court that he had been one of many who had sought sanctuary in the church.

Mr. Kagenza described how a bus full of soldiers of the former Rwandan army

and Interahamwe, the extremist Hutu militia, arrived in the area April 12.

"The massacre started April 14. The Interahamwe had come to kill. They destroyed the church's doors to bring out the people and the police started throwing grenades inside."

During the two days of slaughter, the attackers also damaged the church with axe and pick blows and grenade blasts.

"When they started shooting the men, women and children taking refuge in the church, I hid in the belltower with some friends. After a while, they spotted us and opened fire," Mr. Kagenza said.

He said that on April 16, the priests brought in the machine to demolish the church. The walls and the belltower collapsed around Mr. Kagenza.

"I fell and the Interahamwe hit my head with a machete blow," he said, showing a large scar that traversed his head.

"I lost consciousness. They thought I was dead. During the night, I climbed out from under the bricks and I fled," he said.

He added that only five other people came out of the rubble alive.

The Rwandan court which judged the priests was set up by the government to try suspects linked to the genocide, in which between 500,000 and 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus died.

U.S. envoys meet Albanian leaders on Kosovo

TIRANA (AFP) — U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and special Balkans envoy Robert Gelbard arrived here Saturday for talks with Albanian leaders on the crisis in neighbouring Kosovo, the U.S. embassy said.

During their brief visit to the Albanian capital Mr. Talbott and Mr. Gelbard were due to discuss possible solutions to the inter-ethnic crisis in the Serbian province with President Rexhep Meidani, Prime Minister Fatos Nano and Foreign Minister Paskal Milo.

Mr. Talbott and Mr. Gelbard arrived from Rome where the deputy secretary of state, along with Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, Friday appealed to the two sides involved in the Kosovo conflict to put an end to the spiral of violence.

They asked the Serbian authorities in Belgrade to make the police in Kosovo "act in respect of human rights," while the Albanian opposition should "give up pursuing political goals through violence" and engage in direct dialogue.

Mr. Talbott is in Europe at the head of a delegation representing the White House, the State Department and the Pentagon which is visiting European capitals to discuss the Kosovo question.

Since the start of the crisis in Serbia's Kosovo province in late February, in which more than 80 people have died, Belgrade has repeatedly asserted that armed groups and military equipment enter Yugoslav territory from Albania.

Most of the population in Kosovo, a province in southern Serbia, is ethnic Albanian but the province is run by the Serbian authorities.

Tirana and Belgrade traded accusations Friday over two disputed border incidents that once again raised tensions in the volatile Balkan region.

Albania called for the deployment of NATO troops in Serbia's Kosovo province, after the incidents Thursday, which it said were instigated by Belgrade.

Yugoslav army headquarters meanwhile accused unspecified "official state bodies" in Albania of involvement in the two incidents.

Senior U.S. state official meets Cambodia's King Sihanouk

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (AFP) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Stanley Roth met here Saturday with Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk following the death of former Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot.

Emerging from the 90-minute meeting at the royal residence in this northern Cambodian town, Mr. Roth said he had discussed the future of democracy here and July's scheduled elections.

"I wanted to get from (the king) his assessment of the current situation and the steps that need to be done to bring about a restoration of democracy and facilitate free and fair elections in Cambodia," Mr. Roth told reporters.

Neither Mr. Roth nor accompanying U.S. diplomats would comment on the substance of discussions with the king, or on the death of Pol Pot and its possible implications for the future of the Khmer Rouge and Cambodia.

King Sihanouk appeared briefly at the door of the residence to wave to reporters, but made no public comment.

The monarch met Friday with diplomats from Asian and Western countries, after which he expressed optimism that the death of Pol Pot would usher in an era of peace and stability for Cambodia.

Pol Pot died Wednesday of an apparent heart attack about 95 kilometers north of here in Khmer Rouge territory near the Thai border.

King Sihanouk returned home a week ago after months of seclusion in China and is to meet Sunday with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) "troika" dealing with the Cambodian political crisis.

The troika — the foreign ministers of Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand —

is spearheading ASEAN's efforts to ensure that the upcoming elections are conducted in a free and fair manner.

The troika was formed last July after the effective ouster of the king's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, as first prime minister by powerful Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The international community, including ASEAN and the "Friends of Cambodia" group of nations is pushing for the exiled prince to be

allowed to participate in the July 26 polls.

Many countries have hinted that unless the prince, who won historic U.N.-brokered elections in 1993, is allowed to participate in the next poll, they will not support or recognise the vote.

Prince Ranariddh, who is now in exile in Thailand, is due to meet the king next week when he returns to Cambodia for just the second time since he was deposed.

Pol Pot's ashes to return to Khmer Rouge cradle

SA NGAM PASS, Thailand (AFP) — Part of the last remains of ex-dictator Pol Pot will be sent back to one of the cradles of the Khmer Rouge movement after his jungle cremation Saturday, his erstwhile jailer said.

Non Nou said the ashes would be divided into three with one part going to the town of Rattanakiri in north Cambodia's Dangrek Mountains.

It was there that the leading figures of the secretive rebels gathered in the late 1960s and early 1970s to hammer their radical ideas into a set of policies which eventually led to the Khmer Rouge regime responsible for the deaths of almost two million people from 1975 to 1979.

Non Nou — who erroneously described Rattanakiri as the town where Pol Pot grew up — said the ashes would be divided later in the day after the funeral pyre had cooled down.

"The ashes are expected to be taken this evening," he said. Non Nou did not say what would happen to the other two lots of ashes following the simple burning in a clearing near the wooden shack where one of the world's most wanted criminals died last Wednesday.

But another cadre said by telephone from the site of the cremation about one kilometer from the Thai border here that Pol Pot's wife, Mea Son, would pick up the ashes and keep them.

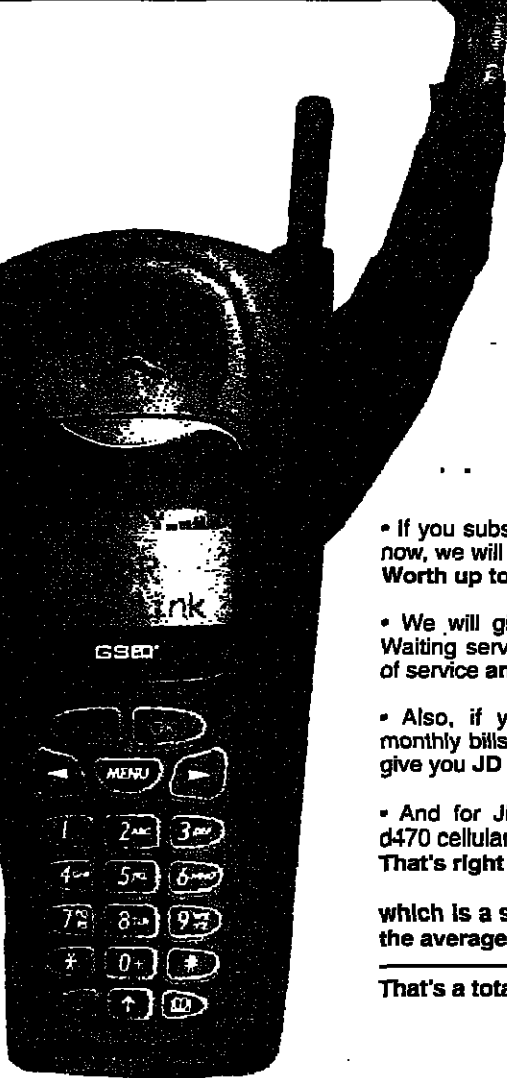
Non Nou — assigned to guard Pol Pot after he was sentenced to life imprisonment by his former comrades at a showtrial last June — said one of his men had lit the pyre of forest wood and junk on which Pol Pot was cremated. The 73-year-old man whose very name struck fear into the hearts of millions of people following his murderous four years in power, died alone and was burned with just a few fighters around the pyre. The fire was fuelled with old car tyres, his mattress, his favourite rattan chair, his backpack and other personal possessions.

OFFER EXTENDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

SAVE UP TO
JD 292

Now...nationwide cellular coverage

from the Syrian border in the North to Aqaba in the South and from Azraq in the East to Ghor al Safi in the West.



• If you subscribe to any of our services now, we will connect you free of charge... Worth up to JD 70.

• We will give you Caller ID and Call Waiting services free for the first month of service and that's worth JD 12.

• Also, if you choose to settle your monthly bills through direct debit we will give you JD 10 credit.

• And for JD 99 only, get a Motorola d470 cellular phone (while supplies last) That's right JD 99 only...

which is a saving of up to JD 200 on the average price of a cellular phone.

That's a total saving of up to JD 292.

Now everyone can Keep Close to those who matter - anytime and anywhere in the country! Offer valid until end of April 1998.

Call our sales representatives now at: Amman (Um Utheina) 863750, Al Wihdat (Al Tayebat Village) 770770, Aqaba 03 2022557, Irbid (Housing Bank Complex) 02 251691 or our dealers at: Mabco 4647666, Al Raed Al Ordany 5602924, Sawalha 5513800, Alcajel 5520180, Al-Aryan 4616632, Mobile World 079 53555

www.jmts-fastlink.com

GSM

Fastlink
Keep Close

Japanese, Russian leaders launch no-neckties summit

KAWANA, Japan (AFP) — Japanese and Russian leaders Saturday launched a "no-neckties" weekend summit in this heavily-guarded coastal resort, as thousands of police kept extreme rightist protesters at bay.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Boris Yeltsin emerged from 90-minute talks in the Kawana Hotel as a political storm brewed in Moscow, and Japanese rightists blared protests on streets nearby.

A second round of talks is to be held Sunday before Mr. Yeltsin returns to Moscow after a 24-hour stay for the informal summit at this hilltop resort, 100 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.

Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi, who travelled with the Russian leader on a helicopter from Tokyo to the summit site, said Mr. Yeltsin, appeared to be "extremely healthy" despite rumours to the contrary.

The Russian leader and Mr. Hashimoto popped in on a wedding being held at the same hotel. "I hope that relations between our two countries will go as well as our wedding ceremony," Mr. Yeltsin told the reception.

Outside, rightists cruised the streets in more than 100 vans, issuing demands from loudspeakers for the return of Russian-held southern Kuril Islands.

The disputed islands, which lie to the north of Japan, were seized by troops of the former Soviet Union in the dying days of World War II and have since blocked the signing of a peace treaty.

Mr. Hashimoto welcomed Mr. Yeltsin with a hug when the Russian leader arrived with his wife Naina by helicopter on the lawn below the magnificent hotel, built in the 1930s for golfing millionaires.

Mr. Yeltsin, 67, smiling and looking relaxed, took off his tie when he saw Mr. Hashimoto was wearing a roll-neck sweater under his jacket. Dozens of school children dressed in uniform waved flags and cheered "Russia, Russia."

Police imposed a security perimeter on streets around the hotel and barred the protesters, who had registered their demonstrations in advance, from approaching within 100 metres of the cordon.

Three rightists from one van were arrested for exceeding noise limits, said a police spokesman in the

main city of Ito. Kawana lies on the outskirts of the city.

Mr. Yeltsin was accompanied by his daughter and advisor Tatiana Diachenko, the president's spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembski and Acting First Vice Premier Boris Nemtsov.

Japan hopes to make progress in its demands for the return of the southern Kuril Islands and a raft of economic deals is on the table to smooth relations.

Among them, Mr. Hashimoto was reportedly expected to offer support for electricity development on the power-short Kuril Islands, the first such Japanese assistance for major infrastructure on the territory.

But on the eve of the summit, Russian Prime Minister-designate Sergei Kiriyenko told the lower house of parliament, the Duma, that Moscow would not hand over the islands, which lie to the north of Japan.

The Duma voted for the second time against Mr. Kiriyenko's candidature as prime minister, hours before Mr. Yeltsin left for Japan. The legislators have one more chance to approve Mr. Yeltsin's choice before the Duma is dissolved.

"I appreciate his friendship for coming here at a time when Russia's domestic politics is in a crucial stage," Mr. Hashimoto said as he left Tokyo for Kawana.

"I will let myself be natural with him. Something that had not moved for 50 years has finally started moving."

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Hashimoto held a landmark summit last November in Krasnoyarsk, eastern Siberia, calling for a peace treaty to be concluded by 2000 and for the islands dispute to be settled.

A total 105 vans were driving around Kawana and the main Ito city, police said, but the force of 4,300 officers, including anti-riot officers, was blocking access to the Kawana Hotel.

Traffic snarls built up on the narrow roads around the usually tranquil town.

On a six-kilometre drive from Ito to the hilltop Kawana hotel, police at four checkpoints stopped cars and demanded identification papers. No cars were allowed into the driveway to the Kawana Hotel.

Police said 1,600 riot police were drafted in from other prefectures to bring the security force to a total 4,300 officers.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right) applauds Naoya Goto, (second left) who is holding a wedding gift from Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto (left), during a wedding reception at Kawana Hotel, the venue of the two leaders' informal meeting. The two leaders made a surprise visit to the wedding ceremony of Goto and his newly-wed wife Kayori, which coincided with the day of Mr. Yeltsin's arrival (Reuters photo)

Yeltsin 'rapes' Duma with Kiriyenko nominations

MOSCOW (AFP) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev accused Russian leader Boris Yeltsin of practically "raping" the lower house state Duma by renominating as premier a young reformer twice rejected by deputies.

Interfax reported Saturday.

Mr. Gorbachev, who quit as Soviet president in 1991 after losing a power struggle with Mr. Yeltsin, head of the Russian Federation which was then still part of the Soviet Union, said Mr. Yeltsin had become "a destabilising factor for Russia."

"By imposing the candidacy of Sergei Kiriyenko, the president almost rapes public opinion and the Duma," said Mr. Gorbachev, who shot to international prominence

in 1985 when he became Soviet leader.

Mr. Yeltsin nominated Mr. Kiriyenko, a 35-year-old technocrat deputies rejected as prime minister for a second time Friday, for a third and decisive confirmation ballot next Friday.

If lawmakers reject Mr. Kiriyenko a third time Mr. Yeltsin must dissolve the Duma and call fresh elections within three months.

Mr. Gorbachev blasted Mr. Yeltsin's tactics as confrontational, saying they signalled his intention "to carry on with the policy that led the country into the crisis of 1993 and the war in Chechnya, and which has been rejected by the majority of Russian citizens."

The Kremlin chief's tussle with parliament over the premiership is the

most serious crisis since Mr. Yeltsin sent in tanks to crush a parliamentary uprising in 1993.

Forcing deputies to accept Mr. Kiriyenko, who critics charge is too young and inexperienced to hold the second most important public office in a major nuclear power, would only increase tension in the country.

The baby-faced reformer would be a Yeltsin puppet who could be easily dispensed with, added Mr. Gorbachev.

Mr. Gorbachev, whose dovish policies to the West ended decades of cold war tension, currently runs an eponymous foundation in Moscow which has had several run-ins with the authorities over its siting.

Annan's decision on U.N. probe could slow aid to Congo

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — A decision by U.N. chief Kofi Annan to halt a U.N. human rights probe is likely to slow badly needed aid and investment to Democratic Republic of Congo.

U.N. officials said that donor countries and private investors would now think twice about helping Kinshasa after Mr. Annan Friday pulled out a team investigating massacres of Rwandan refugees because of systematic obstruction by DRC authorities.

But they also stressed that the United Nations was not cutting its links with Kinshasa despite Mr. Annan's decision to pull out the team, which he dispatched to DRC last August.

President Laurent Kabila, whose Rwandan-backed rebel forces are widely blamed for the killings, has invited Annan to a May 15 regional summit on stability and economic development in the Great Lakes region.

Mr. Annan has declined the invitation. "How could he go under the circumstances," one senior official said. But he is sending U.N. Development Programme chief Gustave Speth to the meeting.

Kinshasa Saturday called on the international community to stop attaching conditions to reconstruction aid for the country, whose infrastructure was destroyed by decades of misrule by ousted dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

"Our government has not received any external aid. Our so-called friends have done nothing for the government," Economic and Oil Minister Pierre-Victor Mpyo said in a statement.

"We no longer want someone to come and tell us that aid comes with strings attached. They have promised us aid. But this aid doesn't come just as we are planning the coun-

try's reconstruction," the minister added.

The European Union has offered the lion's share of humanitarian and reconstruction aid to DRC, totalling some \$400 million. However, the aid is contingent on Kinshasa meeting human rights and other criteria.

The World Bank has also set up a trust fund, totalling some \$30 million.

Mr. Mpyo's remarks came a day after Kinshasa dissolved and banned the main human rights group in the former Zaïre and gave others three days to register. It also follows a meeting between Kabila and the U.S. president in Entebbe, Uganda last month during which Bill Clinton insisted on the need for multi-party politics and greater respect for human rights and opposition parties in the DRC.

A U.N. official noted that in future, governments would be "much more reticent" about releasing funds to Kinshasa because of Mr. Kabila's human rights record.

The official added that private investors, particularly in the mining sector, would also conclude that "there is no political and social stability in DRC in the long term."

The Congolese government must understand the need for guarantees and "transparent" government, to ensure the protection of investment in the country, the official said.

Congolese Ambassador to the United Nations André Kapanga said Friday: "The doors are still open, those countries that want to help us are more than welcome, those companies that want to invest in the Congo are more than welcome."

"But at the same time, we cannot wait forever, we have essentially to rely on our own resources."

Kohl denounces rival Schroeder's lack of agenda

BONN (AFP) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl slammed his left-wing election rival Gerhard Schröder for having no political agenda and being interested only in seizing power, reported Germany's Welt am Sonntag weekly.

Mr. Schröder, who was officially confirmed Friday as the Social Democrats' candidate for chancellor, "has no political programme and is only intent on gaining power," said Mr. Kohl in an interview with the paper to appear today.

On the SPD ceremony of investiture at Leipzig, the chancellor quipped that Mr. Schröder, tipped by many to unseat Mr. Kohl, would probably "win a prize for putting on the best show."

Mr. Kohl, in power for a record 16 years, is confident of staying put, claiming that the business community and economists are hoping for victory for the governing centre-right coalition (CDU/CSU).

The 68-year-old chancellor warned that an SPD-Alliance90/Greens coalition would seek to back-track on economic reforms launched by his centre-right.

A ruling SPD-Alliance90/Greens coalition would be "bad for economic recovery and would signal the end of all hope of job creation," warned Mr. Kohl.

The SPD is not "a new centre" but merely "the old left-wing," he went on, underlining traces of SPD leader Oskar Lafontaine's influence in Mr. Schröder's agenda.

Mr. Lafontaine, who is reputed to be more left-wing than Mr. Schröder, seeks to impose "the old state SPD model" on Germany, said Mr. Kohl.

Indonesia, Brunei to cooperate in battling Kalimantan fires

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (AFP) — Brunei and Indonesia are to cooperate in battling vast forest fires in the Indonesian region of Kalimantan, a senior official said here Saturday as a choking smoke haze spread over the region.

Urging countries such as the United States to help, the head of Brunei's efforts to battle the environmental problem said "both sides have agreed to work together in firefighting efforts."

Haji Zakaria bin Haji Saruddin, secretary of Brunei's National Hazard Committee and head of the development ministry's environment unit, told AFP a cooperation deal on firefighting was reached last week with Jakarta.

"It's just a matter of formalities, such as who will be involved in the mission, when we shall proceed," Haji Zakaria said.

They expected a response from Indonesia over the weekend as to the exact date a mission from Brunei could be sent to Kalimantan to assess the situation, he said.

U.N. experts say some 10,000 firefighters are needed to douse the fires, blamed on land-clearing and a severe drought.

Brunei's government urged bigger nations such as the United States to take a direct hand in firefighting efforts. "ASEAN is stressing the superpowers have to play a part. The U.S. is pledging millions of dollars for research-oriented assistance ... It would be better if they come forward to assist in firefighting directly," Haji Zakaria said.

The United States has promised \$2 million to help Indonesia fight the fires that have razed some 280,000 hectares of forest in East Kalimantan province. Satellite

images from Singapore show the possibility of fires burning in Central Kalimantan as well. ASEAN environment ministers here last month concluded that fires raging in Indonesia, East Asia was under immediate threat from a repeat of the smog that choked most of the region last year.

Fires in Kalimantan have kept Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia in a blanket of thick smog. Brunei was given a reprieve this week as rains helped quell blazes and ease the haze.

Indonesian Environment Minister Juwono Sudarsono recently admitted red tape in his country had greatly hampered firefighting efforts.

A U.N. disaster assessment and coordination team in Jakarta has said Indonesia needed 10,000 people, water-bombing aircraft and firefighting equipment to put out the fires.

Brunei's small size and access to millions of dollars in resources from government and private sector, as well as its trained manpower, have enabled the oil-rich sultanate to successfully put out their own fires that have burned about 4,000 hectares of forest.

Malaysian and Bruneian firefighters have been working together on ground and aerial operations since February along their shared borders.

Brunei is located on Borneo Island, which is also shared with the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah, and Indonesia's region.

The fires on Borneo have largely been blamed on a prolonged drought due to the El Niño phenomenon, and the prevalence of slash-and-burn methods for clearing land for farming.

S. Korea confident time on its side in North ties

BEIJING (R) — Neither Korea got what it wanted from the first high-level North-South discussions in four years, but it was South Korea's chief negotiator who was smiling and North Korea's who was somberly shaking his head as talks collapsed Saturday.

Despite the failure of marathon "fertiliser-for-family reunion" talks in Beijing, the South Koreans appeared confident that the needy northerners would come back to the table sooner rather than later.

"Considering the situation facing North Korea, we do not believe that it will refuse to continue North-South dialogue," Seoul's chief negotiator, Jeong Se-Hyon, said after announcing the breakdown.

"It will be difficult for North Korea to disregard south Korean offers of help."

In contrast, Jon Kum-Chol, Jeong's North Korean counterpart, launched a long-winded speech denouncing South Korea that was punctuated with angry gestures that spoke of his frustration.

"The new South Korean administration is using fertiliser as a means of political provocation," he said angrily. "They were trifling with their fellow Koreans."

The dejected-looking Jon blasted as "unreasonably

harsh" South Korea's insistence that fertiliser aid to the hungry north required a firm North Korean commitment to allowing reunions of families divided since the 1950-53 Korean war.

"In many ways the new South Korean government is more confrontational and more conservative toward the North than its predecessor," Mr. Jon said, shaking his head.

Analysts said that South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung, who came to office in February vowing to make a breakthrough in North-South ties, has clearly been more conciliatory to the North than past governments.

The South's tough stance on fertiliser aid, Mr. Jeong said confidently throughout the talks, was supported by a public deeply suspicious of North Korea from past disappointments.

As the talks bogged down in Beijing, South Korean newspaper editorials voiced near unanimous dismay that North Korea had not shown any hint it would change its hard-line behaviour in exchange for aid.

Behind South Korea's conviction that all roads to North Korea's salvation run through Seoul is the growing isolation of Pyongyang, which appears to be alienating friends faster than it can win over old foes.

As Mr. Jeong spoke of North Korea's isolation, explaining that Japan and the United States would not upgrade their ties with Pyongyang without a North-South thaw, a Japanese newspaper reported yet another snub to the Stalinist state.

The Sankei Shimbun reported that Chinese President Jiang Zemin recently turned down a request from North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il who wanted to make a trip to China his first foreign visit since he took power.

China, whose president usually makes time for visiting heads of even the tiniest African states, has shipped fertiliser and food to North Korea but is known to be impatient with its quirky Communist ally's refusal to reform its economy.

Even the international aid community has shed its studios politeness and begun complaining about North Korea's we-dare-you-to-care attitude towards its benefactors.

World Food Programme Director Catherine Bertini this week voiced frustration in dealing with Pyongyang officialdom and warned that the WFP would cut back desperately needed grain aid unless the secretive state opened wider to monitoring of food distribution.

New rightwing movement set up in France

LYON, France (AFP) — French politician Charles Millon, expelled from the centre-right UDF party in a row over alliances with the far-right National Front, late Friday announced the setting up of a new national political grouping to be called simply "The Right."

Addressing up to 4,000 supporters here, Mr. Millon declared: "Solemnly, I announce to you tonight the creation of a national movement for political action which will finally dare to call itself 'The Right.'"

The traditional right and the left each have 61 members in the regional Rhone-Alpes assembly after elections last month, and Mr. Millon owed his reelection March 20 as head of the regional council to the votes of 35 National Front members.

Refusing to resign, he was ejected from the Union for French Democracy (UDF) on April 8.

The background is a row in the UDF, junior partner to the neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic in the conservative national opposition, over whether to accept National Front support in regional assemblies.

The mainstream parties had hitherto boycotted the National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen because of its racism, despite its consistent score of around 15 per cent of votes in successive elections.

Last week the UDF expelled three leading members for striking deals with the National Front in local elections in defiance of party orders. The three had refused to bow to a party order to resign the presidencies they won with National Front support.

The UDF executive ruled in favour of the expulsion of Mr. Millon. Charles Baur of the northern Picardy region, and Jacques Blanc, president of the southwestern Languedoc-Roussillon.

France's mainstream right is torn by moral doubts over whether or not to cooperate with the National Front with its open polemics against non-European immigrants and Jews.

Czech leader back in operating theatre after breathing problems

INNSBRUCK, Austria (AFP) — Czech President Vaclav Havel was back in the operating theatre Saturday for a "clean-up" of his right bronchi after suffering breathing problems, his doctors said.

In Prague, the presidency said the one-hour treatment was a success and was over at 11:00 a.m. (0900 GMT).

The evacuation of the fluids from the bronchial tubes was carried out by a hospital medical team and his personal doctors at the Innsbruck clinic where he underwent emergency bowel surgery Tuesday for a perforated intestine.

The bronchoscopy became necessary because fluids are obstructing the president's bronchi and are causing breathing prob-

lems, the Czech news agency CTK said earlier citing a spokesman for the president.

Doctors said they "cleaned up his bronchi" after fluids reduced the air flow to part of his right lung.

Mr. Havel had been put on a respirator overnight Thursday because of his breathing problems.

He had been ordered to rest more and cut down his workload Friday after he developed a slight fever.

The 61-year-old president was rushed to hospital Tuesday from his holiday home in the Austrian Tyrol.

Mr. Havel, once a heavy smoker, has been hospitalised on several occasions since an operation to take out a cancerous

tumour from his right lung in December 1996.

More recently surgeons removed a lump in his throat in November.

Mr. Havel was placed in the hospital's intensive care unit after his latest health scare.

One of Mr. Havel's doctors, anaesthetist Bohumil Limberk, was called in to assist the medical team which is looking after the president.

Czech Deputy Health Minister Miroslav Cerkbálek told Czech radio the breathing problems did not take doctors by surprise after Tuesday's bowel surgery. Wounds from that operation were healing normally, the doctor added.

Taiwan hopes to establish military information with China

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan hopes to exchange information on military exercises with China to reduce hostility and build mutual understanding, the Daily News Saturday reported. Premier Vincent Siew said.

Mr. Siew was responding to a Democratic Progressive Party lawmaker's proposal to exchange such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan had agreed the use of force to settle cross-strait problems in 1995 and had agreed to the possibility of exchanging such information to build mutual understanding.

Housing Bank seeks dominant role

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — The Housing Bank said this week it aimed to capture a dominant market share in the local banking market ahead of an imminent capital increase which will make it the country's largest capitalised bank.

"We are focusing on increasing our share in the Jordanian banking market in commercial activities," said Abdul Qader Dweik, general manager of the bank.

Mr. Dweik told Reuters the bank wanted to boost its corporate lending and commercial activities in 1998 as part of an aggressive push in the local market.

Bank officials said it hoped to raise its market share of an estimated JD8 billion (\$11.3 billion) worth of private bank deposits in Jordan to 20 per cent in 1998, to rank second after Arab Bank.

It plans to push its share of total loans extended by the banking sector to 17.1 per cent from its current 16 per cent, forecasting JD212 million in new loans this year.

Bank officials said it was leading a \$26 million local banking syndicated short-term facility to the coun-

try's only mobile operator Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (Fastlink).

The bank was optimistic it would capture the lion's share of the project financing market this year, despite a sluggish economic activity hit by regional uncertainty.

Mr. Dweik said the bank forecast its 1998 operational revenues would grow by 42 per cent while net operational profits would rise 167 per cent, underpinned by streamlining of operations and improved commercial business.

He forecast pre-tax profits to reach JD39.7 million in 1998 from around JD20 million last year.

Mr. Dweik said the bank posted JD11.57 million in pre-tax profits alone in the first three months of 1998, mainly through cost-cutting measures it had implemented as part of a major administrative restructuring.

The bank's total balance sheet obtained by Reuters rose 18.8 per cent to JD1.350 billion at the end of 1997 from JD1.136 billion in 1996.

The bank has recently recommended to its shareholders a doubling of its capital to JD100 million which is expected to be approved at the bank's

coming general assembly meeting this month.

The capital hike will come from JD125 million the bank netted from a JD4 premium on a private placement covered by mainly existing shareholders in last year's doubling of capital to JD50 million.

The latest capital hike will make Housing Bank the largest Jordanian bank in terms of capital, followed by regional heavy-weight Arab Bank.

The capital hike leaves Kuwait as the largest shareholder with 18.7 per cent while Qatar and Oman maintain equal six per cent stakes while Iran's will fall by half to three per cent.

Saudi investor Khaled Ben Mahfouz will substantially increase his holding to 16.3 per cent stake from a minor 1.3 per cent, acquiring two seats in a newly constituted 13-member board.

Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, a new investor, will acquire a 15 per cent equity stake.

The bank has become more assertive since a law was passed last year abolishing restrictions on its commercial lending, allowing it to shift its strategic focus to comprehensive banking away from its original real estate niche.

Government committee to supervise troubled firm

By Ahmad Khatib
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Industry and Trade has appointed a committee to supervise the debt-ridden Spinning and Weaving Company (SWC) officials have said.

Industry and Trade Minister Hani Mulki decided to dissolve the company's board of directors and replace it with an appointed committee in response to demands by the Comptroller of Companies.

"The minister acted within the boundaries of the law governing public shareholding companies," explained one official.

"And the decision was a logical consequence to what has been happening at the SWC over the last year or more," he told the Jordan Times.

The court is still looking into charges of alleged embezzlement of millions of dinars by several company officials, a move that has harmed the company's performance.

Company officials were not immediately available for comment. But some businessmen said the appointment of a new committee meant the company would either be liquidated or fully restructured.

"But the option of liquidation seems more likely," said one businessman.

Last week, the general association of workers in the spinning, weaving and clothing industry asked the government to intervene to prevent the liquidation of the company and to safeguard the rights of the shareholders and workers to avoid swelling the ranks of the unemployed.

The association said mismanagement was the main reason for the company's troubles and claimed some "circles" were planning to take over SWC at extremely low prices.

By the end of last year, the company had posted an accumulated loss of JD8 million while total debts stood at JD12 million. The shareholders' equity reached JD658,483 at the end of 1997. The association recommended forming a committee to manage the company for three years and to restructure its finances through partial or full debt capitalisation and rescheduling the rest without interest.

It also recommended providing a working capital to enable the plant continue operations and production and stressed that the company was expected to continue growing and prospering as a result of the increasing demand on its high-quality and low-cost products.

The reserves soared and reached millions but the amounts quickly evaporated and the company fell back after being an industrial leader and the sole manufacturer in its field," the association said as it stressed the mismanagement as the main cause for the SWC's demise.

Producers of cosmetics voice anger over 'unfair competition'

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The establishment of a Dead Sea cosmetics manufacturer earlier this month by a subsidiary of the Arab Potash Company (APC) has raised the ire of the country's 40 Dead Sea cosmetic producers.

Isal, planning to manufacture and export high value added cosmetics as well as bulk raw materials, has been financed by Al Numeira — an APC subsidiary responsible for extracting and distributing raw materials to local producers — and by private sector investors.

"We cannot consider this company as a 'normal' competitor in our sector," said Lama Abassi, general manager for Zaza, a leading exporter of Dead Sea cosmetics.

The APC's concession rights at the Dead Sea, which Al Numeira exploited last spring to extract and supply the sea's raw materials, have made producers wary of Al Numeira's potential to produce, export and sell Dead Sea cosmetics on the local market.

Al Numeira, responding to complaints from producers last February that it was packaging and exporting its own product, denied the allegations in an interview with the Jordan Times, saying that the company was neither exporting, nor did it have intentions to do so. Its official policy, its management said, was to work with local companies and help them expand.

Al Numeira General Manager Ra'ed Soub said in an interview with the Jordan Times Friday that Al Numeira has not deviated from that principle.

"In our talks with the private sector [over the last months], it was decided that Al Numeira should not sell finished products," said Mr. Soub. "Legally, anyway, we could not do it. But, as we did want to enter into the finished products line, we created Isal."

Isal will purchase salt and mud from Al Numeira — which retains 90 per cent of Isal's JD1 million equity — at the same rate as other Jordanian producers, he said.

Mr. Soub explained that the philosophy of the APC is that Jordan should be grabbing a greater share of the global Dead Sea cosmetics industry from Israel.

whose 50 cosmetic companies account for 58 per cent of all Dead Sea cosmetics on the world markets.

Jordan, by contrast, produces a meagre one per cent while countries outside the region produce the remaining 41 per cent.

Similarly, last year, Israel's cosmetics industry was worth \$29 million, towering over Jordan's revenues of \$4.7 million in the sector.

"We have always made clear our intentions to the other producers whom we supply," said Mr. Soub. "That this was a three phase project that include the supply of raw materials, a finished product and eventually a spa and resort centre on the Dead Sea. We are trying to be fair."

Producers remain unimpressed of Al Numeira's intentions, if not outright hostile, towards a company they regard as predatory.

"They have never levelled with us," said one producer. "We want a clear idea of what they are up to and we have asked the ministry of trade and industry to assist us."

Their requests have fallen on deaf ears, said another.

"The government has

made clear they are not interested in our case — we are talking and no one is listening and it seems that the government is intent on doing what it wants with this industry," he said.

"They have a monopoly and they will threaten us abroad and on local markets," said another major exporter. "Their intention is to close many of our companies. Because they have the finances of the APC behind them somehow, they will be able to do it through better marketing, better access, flooding markets, etc."

"I don't believe that they are going to sell to Isal at the same price as they will sell to us," he said.

Finally, says another, Al Numeira and, consequently, Isal, have, at one point over another during the past year, had access to the original companies' export contacts.

"When Al Numeira began distributing, the Chamber of Industry would not give us a certificate of origin without a letter of certification from Al Numeira, which stamped all our documents and invoices, so they had access to everything — addresses, phones, faxes," she said.

Both mergers must still receive regulatory approval from Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin, who has the final say on such combinations.

Mr. Martin said the second proposed merger would not force it to hurry approval of any major bank union and cautioned it was not a done deal.

"The announcement — and recent international announcements — in no way alter the principles, process and timing that the government of Canada will apply in deciding whether or not to grant regulatory approval to any proposed merger of major banks," Mr. Martin said in a statement issued by the finance department.

Mr. Martin is adamant that he will not rule on such mergers until a government-appointed task force on the future of Canada's financial services industry reports in September. That task force is not examining specific mergers but is looking at the overall rules governing the industry.

After the task force reports, the government could still delay making any final decision until next year.

"The trend is very strong and I think what's happening in North America makes it more likely for approval now," said Kevin Choquette, banking analyst with Levesque Beaubien Geoffrion Inc., told Reuters.

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates						Prices as at _____ 18/04/98 19:01			
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0001	-	0.5937	1.5005	131.78	1.4290	1789.80	2.0365	6.0620
DE Mark	0.5531	-	0.3261	0.8298	72.85	0.7901	988.89	1.1263	3.3626
GB Sterling	1.8944	3.0464	-	2.5274	221.99	2.4070	3012.65	3.3403	10.2018
CH Franc	0.8564	120.46	0.3963	-	87.79	0.8520	1191.54	135.58	4.0386
JP Yen	0.0075	1.3719	0.4502	1.1385	-	1.0842	13.57	154.51	4.5994
CA Dollar	0.6998	1.2916	0.4225	1.0886	1.08	-	1270.80	1.4551	4.3255
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0107	0.3317	0.0839	1369.05	0.7988	-	11.38	3.3885
NL Guilder	0.4910	88.76	0.2913	73.67	64.66	0.7015	876.01	-	2.9759
FR Franc	0.1650	0.2982	0.0978	24.7444	21.71	0.2357	33.55	33.5800	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7086	3.7500	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	157.20	3.4160
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	2.8298	0.5317	0.5317	0.5317	0.5317	2154.02	4.8181
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.97	0.9814	0.98	407.20	0.9108
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8908	9.9491	-	9.65	8.8096	9.74	4081.25	9.0617
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0302	1.0302	-	0.0635	1.01	419.50	0.9383
Kuwait Dinar	3.2765	2.3231	12.2887	1.2352	11.93	-	12.03	5003.93	0.9383
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0205	0.9912	0.0831	-	415.82	0.9301
Lebanese/1000	0.85	0.4642	2.4568	0.2488	2.3838	0.1998	2.4049	-	2.2368
Egyptian	0.2927	0.2076	1.0979	0.1104	1.0657	0.0893	1.0751	447.07	-

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	14.19	13.94
W. Texas	15.45	15.93
Bonny	14.19	13.94
Dubai	12.77	12.47
UL Gas	159.00	157.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4822	0.1583	0.40021	35.142
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.49244	0.16165	0.4087	35.885
KW Dinar	3.2765	5.82768	1.94516	4.91684	431.779
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.79846	1.5748	3.93248	349.85
CY Pound	1.8891	3.4157	1.1209	2.8346	248.945

Libor Fixing				
Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-1-
Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Year
USD	5.6719	5.7422	5.7813	5.9063
GBP	7.4157	7.5052	7.5052	7.6000
JPY	0.8354	0.8675	0.8679	0.7083
DEM	3.6717	3.7968	3.9063	4.0624
FRF	3.5371	3.6016	3.7344	1.8375
CHF	1.4531	1.3597	1.3900	3.9688
ITL	5.6970	5.2290	4.9170	-

Metal Prices					
Metal	Bid	Offer	Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	307.5	308	Platinum (oz's)	412	414
Silver (oz's)	6.26	6.29	AL (3 Months)	1452	1454
Palladium (oz's)	412	414	CU (3 Months)	1848	1862
AL (3 Months)	1452	1454	Zinc (3 Months)	1113	1117
CU (3 Months)	1848	1862	Lead (3 Months)	580	584
Zinc (3 Months)	1113	1117	NI (3 Months)	5500	5520
Lead (3 Months)	580	584			
NI (3 Months)	5500	5520			

Main Equity Indices							
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls
New York	DOW JONES	9167.5	90.93	1	9167.5	9052.91	9076.67
New York	S&P 500	1122.72	14.56	1.31	1122.72	1104.96	1108.17
London	FT-SE 100	6922.2	-79.8	-1.33	6905.1	6916.9	6902
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	15703.8	-179.97	-1.13	15853.9	15464.8	15883.9
Paris	CAC 40	3881.58	18.64	0.41	3874.03	3807.76	3845.94
Frankfurt	DAX	6288.75	-55.39	-1.04	6276.5	6243.32	6324.14

Happy Birthday — MÖVENPICK PETRA

On April 6, the Mövenpick Resort Petra celebrated its 2nd year of successful operation.

On this occasion, we proudly acknowledge the efforts and dedication of the young Jordanian staff of our front operation management — Sumer Khair (F&B Manager), Hazem Arabiyat (Executive Chef), and Basil Fakes (Rooms Div. Manager).

The Hotel has set a milestone in Jordan for efficient and friendly service and high standard food quality, including marketing the Mövenpick premium products, such as ice cream, coffee and jam.

Canadian banks to merge in 22.7 billion Canadian dollar deal

TORONTO (R) — Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) and Toronto-Dominion (TD) Bank have joined the North American bank consolidation wave with a 22.7 billion Canadian dollar merger, the second-largest corporate marriage in Canadian history.

It is the second big bank merger in recent months in Canada and it is likely to further anger the federal government, which is refusing to give its blessing to mergers among the big banks until it completes a parliamentary study on the industry.

CIBC will pay 22.7 billion Canadian dollar (\$15.9 billion) in stock for TD Bank, creating a combined bank with a market capitalisation of 45.8 billion Canadian dollar (\$31.9 billion) as of the close of trading on April 16. This would make it the 10th largest bank in North America.

The merged bank will have total assets of 460 billion Canadian dollar, some 74,000 employees and more than 10 million customers worldwide, the two banks said.

"We believe that this deal will make us better

able to compete, not only with domestic competitors but also with powerful competitors from all over the world," said TD Bank Chief Executive Charles Baillie, who will become the CEO of the new bank.

CIBC is currently the second-largest of Canada's big six banks in terms of market capitalisation. TD Bank is the fifth-largest.

Canada's largest bank would be the still-unnamed bank to be created through the merger of Royal Bank of Canada and Bank of Montreal which in January set off a chain of consolidation by announcing they would combine.

Under the terms of the deal, TD Bank shareholders will get 1.318 CIBC shares for each TD share. They will end up with 48.5 per cent of the combined bank, with CIBC shareholders getting the remainder.

CIBC Chairman and Chief Executive Al Flood will become chairman of the merged bank, which will keep the name the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

"Overall, the companies are well suited to each other in many ways. The unanswered questions will be the complications arising from melding management and that ... will be the single most interesting challenge," James Keating, banking analyst with Midland Walwyn Capital Inc., has said.

"The way the deal is struck, it looks like it's

pretty strong for the stocks relative to the others."

Investors sold Canadian bank stocks in response to the news. Analysts said the shares fell mainly because expectations of a merger were already priced into the market.

CIBC shares shed 1.95 Canadian dollar to 56.15 Canadian dollar in Toronto Stock Exchange trading of more than 1.4 million shares. In New York the bank's stock fell 1 1/8 to 39 1/8 with 11,300 shares changing hands.

Stock in TD Bank fell 1.90 Canadian dollar to 71.10 Canadian dollar in Toronto on more than 1.9 million shares. In New York, TD Bank fell 1-3/8 to 49-5/8 on 43,200 shares.

"People are finally sighing a breath of relief. They can finally start selling these things because the news is out. I don't expect them to sell off a lot, but I do believe the short-term euphoria is done," said Dave Picton, portfolio manager at Synergy Mutual Funds in Toronto.

Rumours of a union between CIBC and TD Bank surfaced on last week following on the heels of mega-mergers announced in the United States between BankAmerica Corp. and Nationsbank as well as Banc One Corp. and First Chicago Nbd Corp.

The planned merger between Royal Bank and Bank of Montreal, which set off a strategic scramble to combine among the other major

banks, would still be the biggest in Canadian corporate history.

Both mergers must still receive regulatory approval from Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin, who has the final say on such combinations.

Mr. Martin said the second proposed merger would not force it to hurry approval of any major bank union and cautioned it was not a done deal.

"The announcement — and recent international announcements — in no way alter the principles, process and timing that the government of Canada will apply in deciding whether or not to grant regulatory approval to any proposed merger of major banks," Mr. Martin said in a statement issued by the finance department.

Mr. Martin is adamant that he will not rule on such mergers until a government-appointed task force on the future of Canada's financial services industry reports in September. That task force is not examining specific mergers but is looking at the overall rules governing the industry.

After the task force reports, the government could still delay making any final decision until next year.

"The trend is very strong and I think what's happening in North America makes it more likely for approval now," said Kevin Choquette, banking analyst with Levesque Beaubien Geoffrion Inc., told Reuters.

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE

DAJANI JEWELLERS. "A Symphony of Style"

Amra Forum Hotel, Amman - Cairo - Rio Phone 5527418

STUDIO HAIG

Professional quality in 1 hour service
Develop your talent in our shop and on
* JUMBO photo prints
30% larger
\$ Free delivery
20 x 30 cm

Shmelsani - Opposite Grindlays Bank, Phone: 5604042
Sweifish Tel: 822891

DIPLOMAT

RENT A CAR

A DISTINCTIVE SYMBOL OF TASTE, INTELLIGENCE AND A REFINED LIFESTYLE

FOR RENT

Deluxe Villas and Apartments

SANABEL Real Estate
SWEIFYEH
A. Hajrat Complex, Tel: 864230 - 865187
Mobile: 079/375588

Crystal

Quality Serviced Suites
One & Two Bedrooms • Fully Equipped Kitchens • Daily & Long Stay • Reasonable Rates
5th Circle Tel: 5692672 - Fax: 5674551

L'olivier Restaurant

Abdoun 5929564

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL

5667171 EXT. 223 OR 5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL

5667171 EXT. 223 OR 5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42

Many villas and apartments for rent and sale

Furnished & Unfurnished
For more information call:
Abdoun Real Estate
5920605/5920609/079-30007
E-mail address: abdoun@go.com.jo

Arab Gulf countries ponder easing curbs on foreign capital

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states will meet soon to consider allowing greater foreign investment to attract industrial technology needed to diversify their economies, heavily dependent on volatile oil earnings.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) sources said the six-member group's economy and finance ministers would meet within two months to discuss the proposals in a study by a U.S. economic and technological consulting firm.

The U.S. proposal, published in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Bayan, would lower the national shareholding in any project from 51 per cent to 25 per cent for a transitional three-year period.

"This period will allow member states to determine the feasibility of the plan before deciding whether to cancel the term for national ownership altogether," the semi-official newspaper said.

A second proposal "calls for

cancelling that term immediately as is the case in other world economic groups to serve industrial development," the paper said.

The U.S. study was requested by the Riyadh-based GCC secretariat, following calls by the GCC's main economic partners — the European Union, the United States and Japan — for the gradual removal of investment barriers, including red tape and curbs on foreign capital.

In a White Paper received by the GCC recently, the U.S. said investment laws in the political, defence and economic alliance are restrictive as they prohibit foreign businessmen from owning more than 49 per cent of the project. Although some members have modified investment laws, they still give foreigners limited access to their economic sectors. The Gulf stock markets have also remained blocked to foreigners in most cases.

A GCC official said there

was a need to improve investment laws to woo industrial technology, especially in the field of heavy industries.

"We have entered an era of an open global economy and cooperation among all countries," the official said.

"There should be more liberalism regarding trade and investment laws and there should be no discrimination against foreign capital," the official added.

Restrictions on foreign ownership in the GCC have already scared off investors from Japan and other major industrial powers seeking to tap the region's massive oil and gas resources as well as cheap labour.

As a result, the GCC's non-oil industrial sector has remained confined mostly to light manufacturing, although nearly \$60 billion has been pumped into that sector. Non-oil exports are also a fraction of the group's crude and gas sales, while the sector's contribution to gross domestic

product has remained below 10 per cent.

"The Gulf region needs foreign capital for many reasons. The most important reason is the inability of the public sector to maintain expansionary budgets, leading to a decline in the sales of the private sector, a slowdown in public and private investment, and a deterioration in the national income, consumption and the current account," the U.S. study said.

"An influx of foreign capital to the region will encourage local businessmen investing abroad to return to their countries. This will result in strong cooperation with foreign investors," it added.

GCC sources of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE control nearly 45 per cent of the world's oil wealth. Their reliance on oil sales have made their economies highly vulnerable to price fluctuations.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21-April 19) — It looks like you cannot afford to do something you want to do with friends. This is actually a blessing in disguise. It will force you to work even harder. Why not enrol your friends in the project? The result will be an increase in income for all of you. Might as well get busy.

TAURUS: (April 20-May 20) — You may feel like someone is trying to block your every move. Your objective is to do what you want. Unfortunately, the direct approach is not going to work. If you just sway what is on your mind, you will probably get fired. Even if this is not a work situation, the whole truth could get you into trouble.

GEMINI: (May 21-June 21) — Travel plans may have to be curtailed for a while. There are things to finish up first. Perhaps you could have your friend visit you instead. Something you sent for a while back could finally arrive. Better check your messages a couple of times today, too. You don't want to miss anything.

CANCER: (June 22-July 22) — Your friends love to come to you for advice, especially for their emotional problems. It looks like you have a problem or two of your own. If that is the case, ask one of these friends for a return on your investment. Turnabout is fair play.

LEO: (July 23-August 22) — You and your partner will have to team up if you are going to win this argument. An older person has either of you would like to admit. It is going to be more difficult than you thought it would be. Of course, that is before you were alerted. Forewarned is forearmed, you know.

VIRGO: (August 23-September 22) — This is a time of learning, travel, romance, excitement, adventure, and maybe even a forever commitment. If you have been writing our novel, now is the time to send it to the publisher. That is true of whatever kind of work you have been doing, actually. You are getting better at it by the minute.

LIBRA: (September 23-October 23) — You would like to stay home and snuggle all day. Unfortunately, the odds of getting the day off work are slim. Even if you are self-employed, there is something that has to be done, and done by you. So just make the most of the time you have got with your sweetheart and do not put up a fuss.

SCORPIO: (October 24-November 21) — Partnerships will play an important role in your life for the next month or so. You may notice a difference when your own partner gets a little more vocal. He or she might try to tell you what to do for a change. Don't worry. You will never totally give up control, even if it looks like you have.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22-December 21) — You are doing very well with your career. Technical skills you are acquiring certainly help. You are finding a use for them on a daily basis. If you have not been acquiring new skills, you would better hurry. They could make the difference in whether or not you get the next big promotion.

CAPRICORN: (December 22-January 19) — It looks like travel is the focus of your attention. How long has it been since you have gone abroad? More money may be going out than coming in, so do not make this a business trip. Romance is probably involved. If that gives you any ideas, start looking at travel brochures.

AQUARIUS: (January 20-February 18) — The coming phase will be good for working on household matters. To start off, you and a roommate have something to discuss. It has been in the back of both of your minds for some time. Once you get started, it will be easy to talk about. You might even wonder why you waited so long.

PISCES: (February 19-March 20) — You are feeling more confident, and it is easier for you to make decisions. The bad news is that you are under pressure to decide and you do not feel you have quite enough information yet. You may be right. Get a postponement until tomorrow, if at all possible.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21-April 19) — Finances will be a major focal point for the next month or so. You hate to be restricted, but there is no point in complaining. This lesson has to do with money. And fortunately, or unfortunately, it has to do with being satisfied with what you have.

TAURUS: (April 20-May 20) — You are even more powerful and magnificent. Although it is pretty close to the edge all day long, it will be even more noticeable later this evening. You will be practically irresistible to an attractive friend. Maybe this person will become more than a friend. If you are already married, behave yourself!

GEMINI: (May 21-June 21) — Finish up those projects you started last year around this time. If you cannot remember what they were, do not worry. They are probably all over your garage, basement and attic, not to mention several rooms in the house. Just make a list and check things off.

CANCER: (June 22-July 22) — Confer with your mate first thing this morning, so you can go shopping later this afternoon. There are things you need to buy that can teach you how to make other things, that, in turn, will help you save money. The intention should be to spend so you can save.

LEO: (July 23-August 22) — The Moon is going into Aquarius later today. Aquarius is directly opposite Leo, so you two tend to argue. Actually, Aquarius is your natural partner. And maybe a little bit of competition is good for a relationship. Hopefully that is so, because you are about to run into quite a bit of it.

VIRGO: (August 23-September 22) — Somebody you know is worried about money, especially this morning. Your reassurances are nice, but you should teach this person how to manage money. He or she probably won't spend quite so much, and that would certainly be nice.

LIBRA: (September 23-October 23) — Your home should still be the focus of your attention, for the morning, anyway. Once you tie up loose ends, you and your sweetheart can sit back and survey what you have accomplished. You might start wondering how you are going to pay for all this. Not to worry. You will find a way.

SCORPIO: (October 24-November 21) — In some ways you are getting stronger. In other ways, this coming phase will be an irritation. It concerns your greatest loves and your worst enemies. Interesting that those two concepts should be wrapped up in the same package. They seem to have a talent for hitting you right where it hurts.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22-December 21) — For the last month, you have reestablished bonds with people you love. You have had a couple of tough conversations, but everything has worked out well. Now that you have that extra strength and support, you need to get back to work. Plan your next project this morning, and do the research this evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22-January 19) — There is one last obstacle to be overcome later today, and after that, it is smooth sailing. What don't reward yourself by going out to dinner with your favourite person later on tonight? For the next month or so, you will be lucky in love. And it is about time!

AQUARIUS: (January 20-February 18) — The focus is on home and family and real estate. Maybe you could use your new skills to fix up your place. Then you could and sell, and so on. That is certainly one option, and it is one you might want to investigate further this afternoon.

PISCES: (February 19-March 20) — You have learned about money during the last month, and you have probably made more than usual. Now you are going into an educational period. You will learn more quickly during the next month. So, think about what you want to learn. It will become more obvious in the next couple of days.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN JORDAN

TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 18/04/1998

PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRADS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
350,000	251,000	ARAB BANK	14.1	1.16	18	1050	364640	344.00	344.00	-
2,340	1,640	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8.2	0.00	20	18910	33191	1.73	1.77	0.04
3,540	1,250	BANK OF JORDAN	4.3	0.00	2	3850	1617	1.30	1.35	0.05
2,680	1,650	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.2	7.88	5	2700	4853	1.80	1.79	-0.01
3,500	4,600	THE HOUSING BK.	17.3	3.67	36	15650	84896	5.34	5.45	0.11
4,180	1,790	JOR. INVEST. BANK	9	0.00	7	1920	3525	1.80	1.84	0.04
920	500	JOR. GULF BANK	4.0	10.29	7	4450	3043	0.69	0.68	-0.01
4,190	2,680	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	40.4	2.67	1	3000	7950	2.66	2.65	-0.01
2,700	2,700	ARAB JOR. INV. BK./WFI	9	0.00	1	1000	2650	2.70	2.65	-0.05
4,020	1,750	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.5	0.00	21	23926	42388	1.76	1.83	0.07

BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 240.36	%CHG: +0.47	118	73666	548952			
2,400	1,590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.1	11.36	2	3050	6628	2.22	2.20	-0.02

INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS	INDEX: 123.07	%CHG: -0.10	2	3050	6628
-------------------------	---------------	-------------	---	------	------

2,240	1,550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.6	5.07	21	6090	13281	2.19	2.17	-0.02
1,550	960	NATL. PORTFOLIO	42.7	0.00	10	12200	11984	1.07	1.07	-
590	460	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	9	0.00	5	3650	1387	0.36	0.38	0.02
9,500	4,700	ALRAI	9.0	6.82	1	50	440	9.06	9.80	0.76
1,480	1,120	MID. EAST HOTELS	18.0	0.00	1	50	59	1.20	1.18	-0.02
1,070	900	SARKA EDUCATION	16.7	0.00	1	2000	1900	0.97	0.95	-0.02
1,830	1,450	UNIFIED CO.	6.9	7.10	21	10500	16213	1.48	1.55	0.07
1,350	950	UNITED FOR FINAN. INV.	7	11.63	3	5000	5550	1.17	1.11	-0.06

SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS	INDEX: 118.81	%CHG: -0.36	64	38564	50834
-----------------------	---------------	-------------	----	-------	-------

4,450	2,600	JOR. CHEMIST FACT.	17.1	3.81	11	12425	35876	2.90	2.89	-0.01
7,050	4,200	ARAB POTASH CO.	28.3	3.48	3	19750	94313	5.90	5.75	-0.15
11,160	7,200	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.6	8.15	13	4695	52175	10.96	10.90	-0.06
1,440	1,040	MOLEEN INDUSTRIES	7.2	7.04	1	1500	710	1.45	1.42	-0.03
5,700	3,400	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	15.0	3.68	50	37250	203940	5.33	5.44	0.11
1,570	1,020	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	11.1	7.46	3	600	804	1.34	1.34	-
6,350	4,400	ARAB ALUMIN. IND.	7.2	5.88	7	3500	20671	5.89	5.75	-0.14
3,420	2,220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	6.7	8.77	3	10155	28888	2.83	2.85	0.02
5,770	400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	16.6	0.00	3	1150	571	4.49	4.49	-
1,110	910	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	22.0	0.00	5	12350	8882	7.11	7.12	0.01
6,520	510	NATIONAL INDUS.	9	0.00	10	10550	6004	0.55	0.56	0.01
780	370	INTERMED. PETRO. CHM.	9	0.00	17	17050	6795	0.38	0.40	0.02
3,000	920	NATL. CABLE WIRE HFAC	28.2	0.00	18	6000	6944	1.14	1.17	0.03
1,770	510	JOR. SUTLRY CHM.	9	0.00	29	40400	24578	5.48	5.48	-
1,560	1,140	ARAB PHARM. CHM.	14.7	4.51	7	1700	2219	1.32	1.33	0.01
1,540	810	UNIV. HOON. INDUS.	14.5	6.59	11	8780	7764	0.88	0.91	0.03
1,210	680	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	9.4	14.29	3	1350	945	0.68	0.70	0.02
1,080	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	14.2	9.90	19	20367	20305	1.00	1.01	0.01
1,790	1,290	EL. & CAT. READY WEAR	48.9	0.00	3	1500	7075	1.37	1.39	0.02
1,250	1,080	SUTL. TOBACCO	8.6	0.00	21	37300	88372	1.18	1.20	0.02
1,220	890	JOR. INDUS. KITCHEN-TECHNO	10.5	0.00	6	3850	4038	1.05	1.05	-
860	560	JORDAN STEEL	9.3	8.43	11	26568	72041	0.83	0.83	-
790	670	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.4	16.67	48	116200	69363	0.62	0.60	-0.02

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS	INDEX: 109.59	%CHG: -0.97	305	426359	706377
--------------------------	---------------	-------------	-----	--------	--------

GRAND TOTAL	INDEX: 169.67	%CHG: -0.07	489	541639	1312390
-------------	---------------	-------------	-----	--------	---------

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 18/04/1998

N 1,050	910	EXPORT & FIN. BKR. 75%	17.4	0.00	5	7392	5029	0.92	0.94	0.02
N 1,230	1,050	ISLAMIC INSURANCE CO	9	0.00	1	1000	1180	1.15	1.16	0.01
N 530	340	JOR. TRADE INC.	9	0.00	13	35000	14000	0.40	0.41	0.01
N 800	660	UNION INV. SO	9	0.00	9	60920	15819	0.76	0.75	-0.01
N 620	360	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	14	21400	8754	0.40	0.41	0.01
N 2,220	1,050	CENTURY INV. GROUP	6	0.00	7	70000	140000	2.00	2.00	-
N 270	170	JOR. INDUS. KITCHEN-TECHNO	9	0.00	3	5500	715	0.11	0.12	0.01
N 470	240	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	48.4	0.00	33	111600	47092	0.41	0.41	-

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1 Vineyard
8 Museum employee
15 Patriotic song
16 Like very narrow roads
17 Cookbook collection
18 Giving undivided attention
19 Blackthorns
20 Seas
22 Web bit
23 False mannerisms
24 Breaks from a habit
25 Enlarge one's staff
26 Young boy
27 Telegraph code
28 Fellas
29 Attack verbally
31 Direct and candid
33 Given new life
35 Workplace rookies
36 Stirs over
42 Floral gift
43 Deep sleep states
45 Dining area
46 Small poisonous snakes
47 Predatory seabirds
48 Marine shade
49 Operate
50 Mineral cathartics
51 False appearance
52 Tiny life form
54 Like new-born nights
56 Brightest star in Scorpio
57 Inscribe RIP
58 Nuns
59 Hidden away

4 Makes an effort
5 Third clothing measurement
6 Sleeve card
7 One prone to backtalk
8 Bejeweled headbands
9 Modular elements
10 Guns the engine
11 Pub offering
12 Making lace
13 Anywhere planetwide
14 Most
21 Points
24 Tom of New Journalism
25 "The Chronicles" composer
28 Highlanders
30 Zodiac sign
32 Ostrich's kin
34 Headstrong
35 Emotional wounds
36 "The Thieving Magpie" under
37 Phrases
38 Samson's under
40 Hard to pin down
41 Rained ice
44 Large groups
47 Sword choice
48 Aaron and Raymond
50 Mad
51 Blithering
53 Squal to the screws
55 Blow-up letters

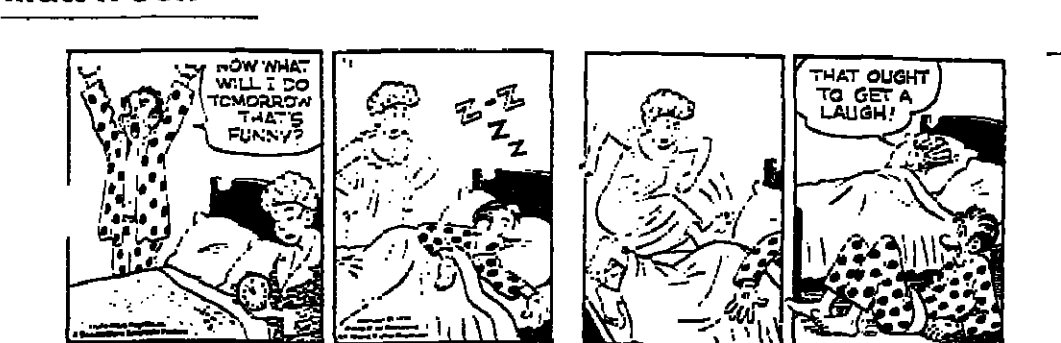
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DARTY

RUMON

SHUBIL

HERTAG

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Rios withdraws from Monte Carlo Open

MONACO (AFP) — World No.1 Marcelo Rios of Chile Friday announced his withdrawal from next week's Monte Carlo Open clay court tournament. Rios, who won the event last year, said he was still troubled by an injury to his right elbow that has sidelined him for the past two weeks. Former No.1 Pete Sampras of the United States will be the top seed for the event ahead of Australian Open champion Petr Korda of the Czech Republic.

Middlesbrough stay in race

LONDON (AFP) — Middlesbrough downed Manchester City 1-0 on Friday night to move to within five points of leaders Nottingham Forest in the English First Division promotion race. The loss was a major blow to Manchester City in their battle to stave off relegation. They are likely to drop into the bottom three after the remainder of the First Division matches are played on Saturday. A fine close-range effort from former Stockport striker Alun Armstrong in the 43rd minute gave the home side victory and second place in the table. But Bryan Robson's men had to last the whole second half with 10 men after Steve Vickers, their vastly-experienced central defender, was sent off for an apparent headbutt on Lee Bradbury late in the first period.

Romanian team cash-strapped

BUCHAREST (AP) — The Romanian soccer federation has only a fraction of the \$700,000 it needs to send its team to the World Cup, the daily Evenimentul Zilei reported Friday. The Romanian Football Federation announced at a meeting Thursday that it had only \$200,000 in its bank accounts. The federation said it hopes to get the remaining money from Adidas, which sponsors the national side, and a loan from the Romanian Foreign Trade Bank, whose director is a soccer aficionado. Romania is to host the European Under-21 Championship in May in the capital of Bucharest.

Salas silent on Maradona

SANTIAGO (AP) — Chilean star striker Marcelo Salas on Friday would not comment on criticism of him by Diego Maradona. "I have nothing to say about Maradona," Salas told reporters. "I don't like to talk about people, especially people who are no longer active in soccer." Maradona, the retired Argentine star, said Salas has been playing poorly for his side River Plate of Argentina, because has been

spoiled by his multi-million dollar transfer to Lazio of Italy. After a sensational season last year that included crucial goals that gave River Plate an Argentine league title and international victories, Salas has lost his scoring efficiency. After he missed a penalty kick last Saturday in River Plate's 3-2 loss to its traditional rival Boca Juniors, Maradona said Salas has been affected by the huge amount of money involved in his transfer, nearly \$20 millions.

Redondo laments World Cup chance

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Although his Spanish soccer league team Real Madrid has qualified for the finals of the European Cup, Argentine midfielder Fernando Redondo seeks more. "It hurts not to be going to the World Cup," Redondo told Ole, a Buenos Aires sports daily. "Each day the pain grows." Once a member of Argentina's national team, Redondo left after a series of run-ins with coach Daniel Passarella. The problems began in September 1995 when Redondo refused to cut his hair as Passarella requires to play on the team. "I can't work with a person I can't trust," Redondo said last year after turning down a chance to play in a qualifying match against Colombia.

United give Old Trafford pitch to fans

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Manchester United are offering their fans a chance to own a piece of the Old Trafford pitch. United are digging up the playing surface at the end of the season and giving it away in 10,000 pieces as part of a competition. A United spokesman says: "Any supporters visiting the new museum and tour centre will get the chance to win. All they have to do is fill in a card. 'Not many people get the chance of playing at Old Trafford, but now they will be able to have a piece of the ground in their own garden.'"

Landmine victim to start London marathon

LONDON (AFP) — Landmine victim Chris Moon will be the first competitor to start the London Marathon on April 26. The 35-year-old, who carried the flame at the winter Olympics in Nagano, will captain a group of around 500 runners. The team are raising funds for The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, an official charity of the race. Moon has run more than 15 marathons in the past three years, despite losing his lower right leg and arm in a landmine explosion in Mozambique.



Saudi Arabia's national soccer team members Sami Al Jaber (R) and Ali Al Fahaid (L) during a training session in southern France. The Saudi team set up a training camp in preparation for the World Cup starting on June 10 (Reuters photo)

First Division Basketball Championship

Orthodoxi upset Jazireh 65-61 and move closer to title

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Orthodoxi Saturday scored a momentous 65-61 win over titleholders Al Jazireh in the most competitive of the season's basketball matches so far.

The win enabled Al Orthodoxi to take the lead atop standings of the three-team First Division Championship playoffs currently underway. The top two teams will now have to beat Al Ahli before they meet again in the second leg of the playoffs to determine this year's winner.

The match, attended by over 3,000 fans, was a see-saw as both teams alternated at the lead before Al Orthodoxi managed to keep their cool and win in the final four minutes of the match.

Al Jazireh led throughout most of the first half with Ma'an Odeh and Yousef Abu Bakr scoring to give their team the biggest lead at 29-17 in the 14th minute.

Ashraf Samara and Hilal Barakat

combined efforts to narrow the gap and wreck Al Jazireh's nerves to tie the first half 30-30.

Al Orthodoxi led 38-32 at the beginning of the second half before Al Jazireh caught up and took the lead 43-41 after a three-pointer by Naser Alawneh in the 7th minute.

However, Al Orthodoxi were not about to give up and again outscored their opponents 7-0 with five points by Jan Sahlieh as they led 48-43.

It was then Al Jazireh's turn to outscore as they had a 10-2 run to lead 54-50.

Al Orthodoxi's energetic playmaker Fadi Saqqa scored a three-pointer that started his team's comeback in the final four minutes

followed by Barakat and Samara as Al Orthodoxi led 61-55 and 64-58.

Al Jazireh scored their final three-pointer by Abu Bakr to trail 64-61 and could not keep hold of the game which marked only their second defeat of the season.

In the preliminary round, Al Jazireh beat Al Orthodoxi 92-84 and lost 73-69. They beat Al Ahli twice 75-69, and 57-53.

As the playoffs got underway, Al Orthodoxi beat Al Ahli 84-61 while Al Jazireh also beat Al Ahli 78-63.

After losing to the top two teams in the preliminary rounds and the playoffs, Al Ahli are now third and are destined to stay there in the final standings.

With the other playoff round starting April 25, Al Ahli's poor physical conditioning and incomplete bench have forced them to rely on the individual efforts of Faisal Nsour and Yousef Zaghloul. The lineup has been depleted with Mohammad Shamali and Marwan Ma'touq both nursing injuries, and centre Ramez Hammoudeh quitting the team for personal reasons.

The team is suffering the ill-effects of inadequate pre-season training which led to an inconsistent form, after officials concentrated more on technicalities like recruiting a coach and luring back veterans to the lineup.

After ending Al Orthodoxi's 1976-1989 undisputed reign, Al Ahli were champions in 1990, 1992, 1993 and 1994 aided by the signing of Naser Bushnaq.

Al Orthodoxi came back to win in 1991, 1995 and 1996 and Al Jazireh ended a 30-year domination among the two rivals last season.

PLAYOFF STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	SR	Sa	Pts
Orthodoxi	12	11	1	986	660	23
Jazireh	12	10	2	1029	710	22
Ahli	12	6	6	796	768	18

Lens maintain lead with 2-0 win

PARIS (AFP) — Leaders Lens scored twice in the final 10 minutes to beat relegation-threatened Cannes 2-0 on Friday night and maintained a two-point advantage over second-placed Metz with just two rounds of the French League remaining.

Goals from Tony Vairelles and Wagneau Eloi kept the unfashionable Lens club on course for their first league title since they won the Occupied France championship in 1944.

Metz, meanwhile, kept up their challenge with a 3-2 win at home to Cannes.

It took nervous-looking Lens 11 minutes to break down a stubborn Cannes defence.

Stephane Ziani broke away on the right and his long crossfield pass was stabbed home by Vairelles from 12 metres out for only Vairelles' sixth goal of the

season. Then, just four minutes later, Eloi used some superb footwork in the penalty area before steering home the second Lens goal.

Until then it had been a case of missed opportunities for the visitors with Ziani rattling a shot off the crossbar in the first half and Vladimir Smicer watching a second-half header cleared off the line by Patrick Barul.

Frederic Meyrieu's superb curling shot from a difficult angle with 17 minutes left saw Metz home against Nantes — but Metz twice had to come from behind against a side who were trying to keep alive their faint hopes of a UEFA Cup spot next season.

Goals from midfielder Christophe Le Roux, with a superb 25-metre shot, and the prolific Jocelyn Gourvennec, with a header from a corner, gave Nantes



Bruno Rodriguez (L) of Metz fights for the control of the ball with Stephan Lievre (R) of Nantes, during their French premier league soccer championship match at the Metz Saint Symphorien stadium (Reuters photo)

the lead but first Yugoslav forward Vladan Lukic, stabbing the ball home from close range after a fine move, and then Bruno Rodriguez, equalised.

Meyrieu then grabbed the winner to keep alive Metz's hopes of their first-ever league title.

The remainder of the round of matches will be played on Saturday evening.

Testud clinches early lead for France

GHENT, Belgium (AP) — Sandrine Testud overwhelmed Sabine Appelmans 6-3, 6-2 Saturday to give France an early lead over Belgium in their first-round match of the Federation Cup World Group 1.

Belgium's No. 1 player Dominique Van Roost was favoured to even the match later Saturday when she met Sarah Pitkowski, an unexpected starter for France. Reverse singles and doubles are scheduled for Sunday.

Testud, ranked 13th in the world, immediately hit her stride on the slow court of the Flanders Expo hall and quickly took a 5-1 lead over the error-prone Belgian.

Appelmans, ranked 8 places below Testud, struggled with power and accuracy throughout and again crumbled under the pressure of a big international match. Last year, she was blamed for Belgium's 3-2 loss in France in the Fed Cup semi-finals.

Before a 4,500 sellout crowd, Appelmans briefly regained her composure when she broke back early in the second set for 2-2, but it all went downhill from there and Testud closed out the match in just over one

hour. "She served a lot better and didn't make any errors," said Appelmans.

Ahead of the weekend match, French coach Yannick Noah told Mary Pierce she need not show up for the Fed Cup match after France's top-ranked player requested a waiver for the early training sessions this week.

He then sidelined Nathalie Tauziat, the 30-year-old veteran still ranked 12th in the world, preferring to rely on the youthful vigor of

Pitkowski, just 22 and the No. 44 in the WTA rankings.

Davenport, Seles set for openers

KIAWAH ISLAND, South Carolina (AFP) — American Lindsay Davenport will play Amanda Hopmans in the opening match of the first-round Fed Cup tie between the United States and Dutch teams.

Former World No.1 Monica Seles faces Miriam Oremans in the second match.

Davenport will play Oremans in the third match on Sunday, followed by Seles against Hopmans.

In doubles, the U.S. team of Lisa Raymond and Mary Joe Fernandez will face the Dutch duo of Manon Bollegraf and Caroline Vis.

AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCHER

This is a unique opportunity as a Researcher for the Automobile Market in the Middle East.

Our client is a well-established U.K. and International automotive consultancy who needs a researcher with persuasive interpersonal skills and who speaks Arabic.

The successful person should be a Jordanian national or an expatriate living there permanently. Whilst the individual is able to be based and work from home, they must have the immigration status to be able to freely travel within the Middle East, covering countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt, in order to establish direct links with the major automotive manufacturers and importers to obtain the research material.

Your responsibilities will involve the research of specifications, prices and volumes for automobiles. Research will include the timely supply of data as well as articles for the company's international electronic news service.

The right candidate must have experience and familiarity of the local automotive market and have an understanding of the technical terms to describe features of automobiles. The candidate must be able to work to high standards of accuracy and meticulous attention to detail.

Personal Computer literacy is essential, i.e. Windows, Excel.

The position is a full-time role. Salary and terms are negotiable.

To apply please telephone Gareth Mason on 44 171 512 1888 or send your curriculum vitae (in English) to: Executive prospects, 30 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9FY, United Kingdom / Fax No. 44 171 512 0456.

Advertisement

The Delegation of The European Commission to The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan invites interested Geotechnical firms classified as (First) Grade by the Tender Directorate of Jordan to show their Expression of Interest for inclusion in a short list of Tenderers for a Contract of Geotechnical Investigations and Laboratory Testing, related to the Study of Wastewater Collection, Treatment, Disposal and/or Re-use System Project for the Catchment Area of Yarmouk River and Jordan River.

Work is to be carried out at about 14 various locations in the north-west of Jordan at possible sites of wastewater treatment plants and possible routes of about 140 km sewers.

Information to be supplied by interested firms are recent certificates of classification from both Jordan Tenders Directorate and Jordan Association of Engineers, together with details of staff, Equipment and Laboratory Capabilities.

Expressions of interest should be sent to the following address to arrive within 7 days from the publication of this advertisement.

Delegation of the European Commission in Jordan
Al Jahaz Street 15, opposite Arab Potash Company
Shmeisani - Amman P.O.Box 926794
Amman - Jordan

Envelopes and covering letter should be clearly marked - (NORTH JORDAN WASTEWATER PROJECT, Expression of interest GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION)

ONE MAN THEATRE
AT THE INTER-CONTINENTAL

MICHAEL LUNTS
AS SERGEI VASSILIEVICH RACHMANINOV
A MEETING OF MINDS

"... Excellent One Man Show ..."
For the price of one ticket
you get both a play and a concert"
The Guardian.

Thursday April 23rd at 8:30 PM

Price : JD 9.500
(includes light snacks and selected drinks)
For further details please call 4641361
ext. 2309

Sponsored by: ROYAL JORDANIAN

HOTEL
INTER-CONTINENTAL
JORDAN

Murdoch makes Lakers part of his empire

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Australian-born media magnate Rupert Murdoch bought a minority interest in the Los Angeles Lakers and the National Basketball Association club's new home arena.

The Fox Group, which paid \$311 million to buy Major League baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers, will own a minority stake in the Lakers and Staples Arena and could buy into hockey's Los Angeles Kings.

Murdoch, who will own 40 percent of the arena, and the arena majority owners also plan to be partners in a planned entertainment complex to be built adjacent to the 20,000-seat arena.

The move comes as long-time National Basketball Association doorman Los

Angeles Clippers will join the cross-town rival Lakers, one of the NBA's best clubs, in the new \$300 million arena next year.

The Clippers signed a six-year lease to play at Staples Center, making it the first arena with two NBA clubs and a National Hockey League team. The arena opens for the start of the 1999-2000 hoop and hockey seasons.

The Lakers and NHL Kings leave the Forum, their home since 1967. The Clippers played at the Sports Arena, the oldest NBA venue.

"Although it will take the most creating scheduling ever, the extraordinary and technically advanced features of our building will give us the ability to provide

this unique gift to Los Angeles sports fans," arena executive vice president Timothy Leiweke said.

Leiweke said NBA and NHL officials were comfortable with the plan, although a delicate balance will be needed to provide quality home dates for 41 hockey games and 82 basketball games from October through April.

Luring the Clippers and securing the deal is a major victory for Murdoch over corporate rival Disney, owners of the Anaheim Pond arena and the NHL Anaheim Mighty Ducks plus baseball's Anaheim Angels and their stadium near their Disneyland complex.

Bulls snap losing streak with victory over 76ers

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Amid another sea of flashbulbs in what may have been his last regular-season road game, Michael Jordan scored 34 points Friday night as the Chicago Bulls snapped a two-game losing streak with an 87-80 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Bulls almost let a 13-point lead slip away, but Jordan scored his only two points of the fourth quarter from the foul line with 14 seconds left to end all doubt.

Scottie Pippen, who missed the Bulls' previous game Wednesday night because of a kidney stone, returned to the lineup and scored 14 points. Dennis Rodman had 17 rebounds.

Hawks 121, Hornets 104: In Atlanta, the Hawks had their highest-scoring game of the season and remained alive for home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs by completing a sweep of the

Jersey's loss at Orlando, it kept alive the Wizards' hopes of squeezing into the postseason. They still must defeat the Boston Celtics on Saturday and hope two things happen Sunday — the Nets lose at home to Detroit and Charlotte wins at home against Orlando.

Washington would win the tiebreaker in a two-way tie involving New Jersey, but the Nets would earn the spot if there is a three-way tie also involving the Magic.

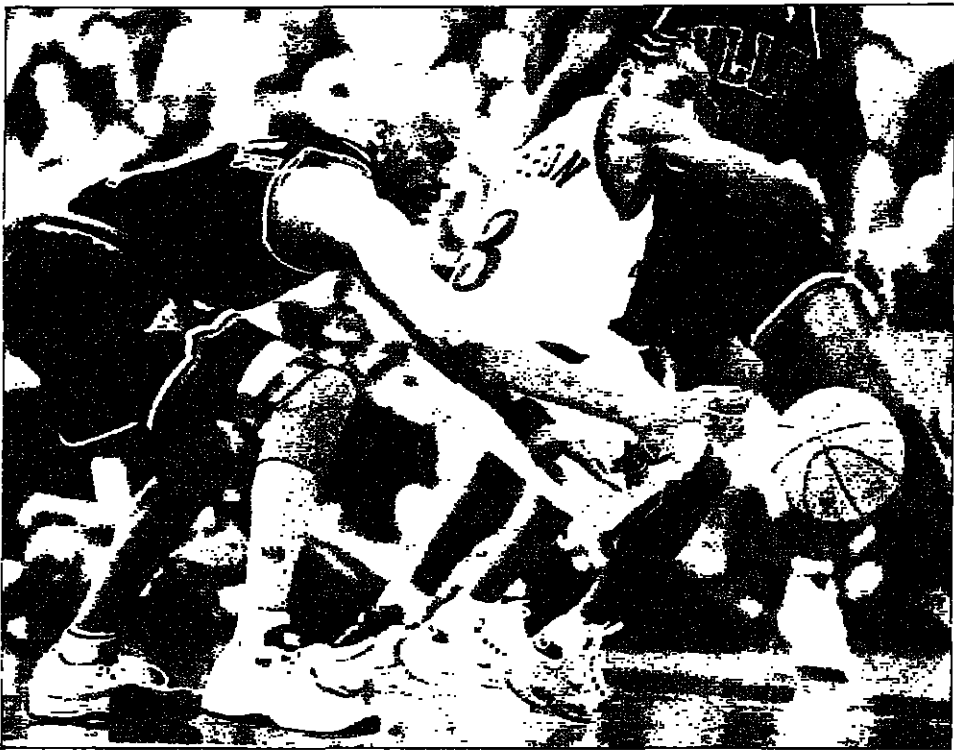
• Magic 121, Nets 109: In Orlando, Florida, the Magic handed New Jersey its third straight loss as the Nets blew another chance to clinch a postseason berth.

Nick Anderson scored 29 points and Bo Outlaw had a triple-double with 25 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists.

Outlaw made 10 of 11 shots, while Anderson scored 19 of his points in the first half when Orlando raced to a 63-50 lead. Reserve Derek Strong fin-



Chicago Bulls Dennis Rodman dives for the ball as Philadelphia 76ers Aaron McKie (R) watches during first period NBA action at the CoreStates Center in Philadelphia. Rodman was not able to recover the ball on the play (Reuters photo)



Chicago Bulls' Ron Harper (L) steals the ball away from Philadelphia 76ers' Allen Iverson during the first quarter of their NBA game at the CoreStates Center in Philadelphia (Reuters photo)

four-game season series against Charlotte.

Steve Smith scored 27 points, Alan Henderson had 25 and Mookie Blaylock 20.

The teams will meet again Thursday night in Game 1 of the best-of-5 first round, the only remaining issue being where it will begin.

The Hawks (49-32) are one game behind the Hornets (50-31).

• Wizards 97, Heat 89: In Miami, Washington stayed alive in the playoff race for at least another day as Chris Whitney sank four free throws in the final 92 seconds to help stave off a Miami rally.

Combined with New

York's loss at Orlando, it kept alive the Wizards' hopes of squeezing into the postseason. They still must defeat the Boston Celtics on Saturday and hope two things happen Sunday — the Nets lose at home to Detroit and Charlotte wins at home against Orlando.

Washington would win the tiebreaker in a two-way tie involving New Jersey, but the Nets would earn the spot if there is a three-way tie also involving the Magic.

• Pistons 108, Bucks 102: In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Grant Hill had 31 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists to lead Detroit over Milwaukee.

Detroit also got 27 points from Jerry Stackhouse, while former Pistons Michael Curry had a career-high 25 points for Milwaukee.

Ray Allen also had 25 and Armon Gilliam 22.

• Pacers 107, Raptors 98: In Indianapolis, Dale Davis had 20 points and reserve Jalen Rose 19 as Indiana won its seventh straight.

place in the Pacific Division.

The victory gave Los Angeles its ninth 60-win season since moving to Los Angeles in 1960-61, and put them a season-high 39 games over .500 with one game left Sunday.

• Celtics 78, Cavaliers 71: In Boston, Rick Pitino missed the game and his two best players, Antoine Walker and Ron Mercer, kept missing shots, but Boston still beat Cleveland.

Pitino, suffering from a stomach ailment, wasn't on the sidelines for the first time since becoming coach last May. His assistant, Jim O'Brien, took over.

Walker and Mercer each missed 13 of 19 shots, although Walker led the Celtics with 17 points and Mercer had 12.

• Jazz 102, Suns 99: In Phoenix, Arizona, the Utah Jazz clinched homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs with a victory that snapped the Suns' 10-game winning streak.

Karl Malone scored 29 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Byron Russell matched his season-high with 21 points off the bench and made three free throws in the final minute to help secure the victory.

Utah and Chicago can both finish with 62-20 records if the Jazz lose Sunday and the Bulls win Saturday, but Utah has the tiebreaker edge from winning the season series 2-0.

The Jazz have won 32 of their last 36 games.

• Lakers 124, Mavericks 95: In Inglewood, California, Shaquille O'Neal scored 43 points as the Lakers earned its 60th victory and moved into a tie with the Mavericks for first place in the Western Conference.

Kevin Garnett had 20 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Wolves in their final regular-season home game. Minnesota, which

place in the Pacific Division.

The victory gave Los Angeles its ninth 60-win season since moving to Los Angeles in 1960-61, and put them a season-high 39 games over .500 with one game left Sunday.

• Celtics 78, Cavaliers 71: In Boston, Rick Pitino missed the game and his two best players, Antoine Walker and Ron Mercer, kept missing shots, but Boston still beat Cleveland.

Pitino, suffering from a stomach ailment, wasn't on the sidelines for the first time since becoming coach last May. His assistant, Jim O'Brien, took over.

Walker and Mercer each missed 13 of 19 shots, although Walker led the Celtics with 17 points and Mercer had 12.

• Jazz 102, Suns 99: In Phoenix, Arizona, the Utah Jazz clinched homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs with a victory that snapped the Suns' 10-game winning streak.

Karl Malone scored 29 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Byron Russell matched his season-high with 21 points off the bench and made three free throws in the final minute to help secure the victory.

Utah and Chicago can both finish with 62-20 records if the Jazz lose Sunday and the Bulls win Saturday, but Utah has the tiebreaker edge from winning the season series 2-0.

The Jazz have won 32 of their last 36 games.

• Lakers 124, Mavericks 95: In Inglewood, California, Shaquille O'Neal scored 43 points as the Lakers earned its 60th victory and moved into a tie with the Mavericks for first place in the Western Conference.

Kevin Garnett had 20 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Wolves in their final regular-season home game. Minnesota, which

place in the Pacific Division.

The victory gave Los Angeles its ninth 60-win season since moving to Los Angeles in 1960-61, and put them a season-high 39 games over .500 with one game left Sunday.

• Celtics 78, Cavaliers 71: In Boston, Rick Pitino missed the game and his two best players, Antoine Walker and Ron Mercer, kept missing shots, but Boston still beat Cleveland.

Pitino, suffering from a stomach ailment, wasn't on the sidelines for the first time since becoming coach last May. His assistant, Jim O'Brien, took over.

Walker and Mercer each missed 13 of 19 shots, although Walker led the Celtics with 17 points and Mercer had 12.

• Jazz 102, Suns 99: In Phoenix, Arizona, the Utah Jazz clinched homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs with a victory that snapped the Suns' 10-game winning streak.

Karl Malone scored 29 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Byron Russell matched his season-high with 21 points off the bench and made three free throws in the final minute to help secure the victory.

Utah and Chicago can both finish with 62-20 records if the Jazz lose Sunday and the Bulls win Saturday, but Utah has the tiebreaker edge from winning the season series 2-0.

The Jazz have won 32 of their last 36 games.

• Lakers 124, Mavericks 95: In Inglewood, California, Shaquille O'Neal scored 43 points as the Lakers earned its 60th victory and moved into a tie with the Mavericks for first place in the Western Conference.

Kevin Garnett had 20 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Wolves in their final regular-season home game. Minnesota, which

place in the Pacific Division.

The victory gave Los Angeles its ninth 60-win season since moving to Los Angeles in 1960-61, and put them a season-high 39 games over .500 with one game left Sunday.

• Celtics 78, Cavaliers 71: In Boston, Rick Pitino missed the game and his two best players, Antoine Walker and Ron Mercer, kept missing shots, but Boston still beat Cleveland.

Pitino, suffering from a stomach ailment, wasn't on the sidelines for the first time since becoming coach last May. His assistant, Jim O'Brien, took over.

Walker and Mercer each missed 13 of 19 shots, although Walker led the Celtics with 17 points and Mercer had 12.

• Jazz 102, Suns 99: In Phoenix, Arizona, the Utah Jazz clinched homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs with a victory that snapped the Suns' 10-game winning streak.

Karl Malone scored 29 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Byron Russell matched his season-high with 21 points off the bench and made three free throws in the final minute to help secure the victory.

Utah and Chicago can both finish with 62-20 records if the Jazz lose Sunday and the Bulls win Saturday, but Utah has the tiebreaker edge from winning the season series 2-0.

The Jazz have won 32 of their last 36 games.

• Lakers 124, Mavericks 95: In Inglewood, California, Shaquille O'Neal scored 43 points as the Lakers earned its 60th victory and moved into a tie with the Mavericks for first place in the Western Conference.

Kevin Garnett had 20 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Wolves in their final regular-season home game. Minnesota, which

place in the Pacific Division.

The victory gave Los Angeles its ninth 60-win season since moving to Los Angeles in 1960-61, and put them a season-high 39 games over .500 with one game left Sunday.

• Celtics 78, Cavaliers 71: In Boston, Rick Pitino missed the game and his two best players, Antoine Walker and Ron Mercer, kept missing shots, but Boston still beat Cleveland.

Pitino, suffering from a stomach ailment, wasn't on the sidelines for the first time since becoming coach last May. His assistant, Jim O'Brien, took over.

Walker and Mercer each missed 13 of 19 shots, although Walker led the Celtics with 17 points and Mercer had 12.

Black, Pavel in Japan Open final

TOKYO (AFP) — Byron Black refused to join the list of beaten top seeds in the Japan Open tennis tournament with a win over Daniel Vacek in the semi-finals Sunday.

The 10th seed, fresh from Zimbabwe's historic victory over Australia in the Davis Cup tie two weeks ago, fought off the hard-serving Czech for a 6-3, 7-5 victory in 86 minutes.

The top nine seeds, including U.S. Open champion Patrick Rafter of Australia, 1989 French Open champion Michael Chang of the United States and Tim Henman of Britain, all crashed out before the semi-finals.

In the final Sunday, Black will take on 16th seed Andrei Pavel of Romania, who caused yet another upset of the week by eliminating 11th seed Jan-Michael Gambill of the United States 6-4, 6-3.

"I had quite a few rough weeks before the Davis Cup and it's so good to be winning so many of these matches," said Black.

"I played some tight ones, but I felt confident even if when I lost a break in the second. I just felt like I could still win the match, I could still break him to win the set."

Vacek used chip-and-charge tactics on Black's second serve and hit a couple of fine approach shots to break the second game of the first set to take an early 2-0 lead.

But Black put in a high percentage of first serves to prevent Vacek from charging to the net and always held the

upper hand when the two played from the baseline to dictate the pace for the rest of the match.

"He was serving to my forehand a lot and I started to read that. He broke me in the first set and I broke him right back and got back into the match," said Black.

"I started to realize that I have to hit deeper and keep him on the defensive, because he was chipping and changing and playing very aggressive. So I had to take it from him a little bit."

It will be only Black's fifth final appearance in his career. For Pavel, it will be his first-ever final appearance. His previous best performance on the ATP Tour was twice reaching the semi-finals, in Chennai, India, last year and at Bucharest in 1996.

Admitting he was "nervous right now," Pavel, ranked 109th this week, said it was "a dream come true."

"I'm going to try to win the tournament, I'm in the final. I played against Byron before and I lost at that time, but I hope I can take my revenge tomorrow," he said.

In the women's semi-finals, defending champion Ai Sugiyama kept local hopes alive by eliminating Taiwan's top player, Wang Shi-ting, 6-3, 6-2.

On Sunday, Sugiyama will play Corina Morariu, who overcame stomach pain to beat fellow American Amy Frazier, the 1995 Japan Open champion and three-time runner-up here, 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4.

Russia take shock 2-0 lead in Fed Cup

PERTH (AFP) — Unfancied Russia established a shock 2-0 lead over Australia on the opening day of their world group 11 first round Fed Cup women's tennis tie at Royal Kings Park here Saturday.

Tatiana Panova, 21, ranked 83rd in the world, gave Russia a flying start when she outlasted Kerry-Anne Guse, ranked 65th, over three sets in the opening singles clash, winning 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Then, in an even bigger upset, little known 16-year-old Ekaterina Sysoeva stunned Australia's top singles player, Rachel McQuillan, beating her 2-6, 6-4, 12-10 in a marathon three-set encounter lasting more than two hours.

McQuillan, 25, is rated 60th in the world, while Sysoeva is a lowly 399th, with career winnings totalling a modest A\$20,000 (\$16,000).

Russian captain Konstantin Bogorodsky was elated with his team's start on the grass centre court, a surface on which they seldom play.

"I thought it would be good to hold the score at 1-1 today, so we have done very well," he said.

Australian captain Lesley Bowrey was disappointed but not downcast.

"We have been in this position before. When we played Canada there two years ago, we were 0-2 down at the end of the first day and came back to win 3-2," she said.

"We will have a talk tonight to try to stir ourselves for tomorrow. Our girls can still win this."

Sysoeva completed what she regarded as the greatest victory of her brief career the day after causing doubts about her fitness.

She was rushed back to the team's hotel Friday immediately after the draw suffering nausea.

"I certainly felt better this morning and am thrilled to have beaten such a good player," she said.

McQuillan said: "She certainly deserved to win."

The outlook did not look good for the young Russian when McQuillan romped to victory in the opening set in only 23 minutes.

But Sysoeva fought back to take the second in 30 minutes before showing great depths of courage in the decisive third set lasting 72 minutes.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
8 TAINAH HIRSH
© 1995 Tribune Media Services Inc.

SCORING A TRUMP IN PASSING

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K872
♥ A K J 7
♦ 8 4
♣ A 7 4

EAST
♠ J 5 3
♥ Q 10 8 5 3
♦ Q J 10 7
♣ 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 6
♥ Void
♦ A Q 8 8 2
♣ K J 9 5

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♠ Pass 1♥ Pass
2♠ Pass 2♥ Pass
3♠ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♠ Pass 4♥ Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♣

There are several ways to distinguish an expert from an average player. One is that the latter will draw trumps regardless of whether there is more important business to take care of first; the former will not worry about surrendering a trump trick to the enemy if it can be afforded.

North-South reached six spades in quick time. When North showed

we were 0-2 down at the end of the first day and came back to win 3-2," she said.

"We will have a talk tonight to try to stir ourselves for tomorrow. Our girls can still win this."

Syssoeva completed what she regarded as the greatest victory of her brief career the day after causing doubts about her fitness.

She was rushed back to the team's hotel Friday immediately after the draw suffering nausea.

"I certainly felt better this morning and am thrilled to have beaten such a good player," she said.

McQuillan said: "She certainly deserved to win."

The outlook did not look good for the young Russian when McQuillan romped to victory in the opening set in only 23 minutes.

But Syssoeva fought back to take the second in 30 minutes before showing great depths of courage in the decisive third set lasting 72 minutes.

SCOREBOARD

National League

Los Angeles	11	Chicago Cubs	3
Cincinnati	4	Ny Mets	3
Milwaukee	5	San Francisco	2
San Diego	7	Pittsburgh	5
Houston	5	Montreal	3
St Louis	8	Philadelphia	5
Arizona	7	Florida	5

American League

Boston	3	Cleveland	2 (10 Innings)
NY Yankees	11	Detroit	2
Toronto	6	White Sox	1
Seattle	11	Minnesota	6
Texas	6	Baltimore	4
Anaheim	5	Tampa Bay	0
Kansas City	4	Oakland	1 (12 Innings)

NBA

Boston	78	Cleveland	71
Atlanta	121	Charlotte	104
Washington	97	Miami	89
Orlando	121	New Jersey	109
Chicago	87	Philadelphia	80
Detroit	108	Milwaukee	102
Indiana	107	Toronto	98

Minnesota	102	Houston	95
Denver 109	Portland	101	
San Antonio	89	Seattle	87
LA Lakers	124	Dallas	95
Utah	102	Phoenix	99

NHL

Calgary	4	Vancouver	2
---------	---	-----------	---

English League

Division One			
Middlesbrough	1	Manchester City	0

French League

Metz	3	Nantes	2
Cannes	0	Lens	2

German League

Duisburg	2	Wolfsburg	2
Werder Bremen	3	Cologne	0

Barcelona ATP quarterfinals

Alberto Berasategui (Spa x7) bt Yevgeni Kafelnikov (Rus x1)
6-4, 6-4

Andrea Gaudenzi (Ita) bt Sergi Bruguera (Spa x8)
3-6, 6-2, 6-3

<p>PHILADELPHIA '1'</p> <p>Morgan Freeman & Ashley Judd ... in</p> <p>KISS THE GIRLS</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>PHILADELPHIA '2'</p> <p>Yusra & Ilham Shahin ... in</p> <p>DANTELLA (ARABIC)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>PLAZA</p> <p>The biggest cinema production</p> <p>TITANIC</p> <p>Shows: 12:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>CONCORD</p> <p>ISMAILIA RAYEH GAI</p> <p>- KAMANANA</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>Adel Imam & Yusra ... in</p> <p>RISALA ILA AL WALI</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00</p>	<p>GALLERIA 2</p> <p>ABDOUN</p> <p>GRAND OPENING</p> <p>TITANIC</p> <p>Shows: 11:00, 2:00, 5:15, 8:30, 12:00</p>	<p>GALLERIA 1</p> <p>ABDOUN</p> <p>GRAND OPENING</p> <p>TITANIC</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 7:00, 10:30</p> <p>The film is also on at 12:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays</p>	<p>Hisham Yanes Theatre</p> <p>TEL: 4625155</p> <p>STARTING APRIL 6TH</p> <p>Don't Laugh Please We're Jordanian</p> <p>Starring Hisham Yanes, Amal Dabbas, Rania Kurdi and the group</p> <p>at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservations call: 4640155, 4625155</p>
---	--	--	--	--	---	---